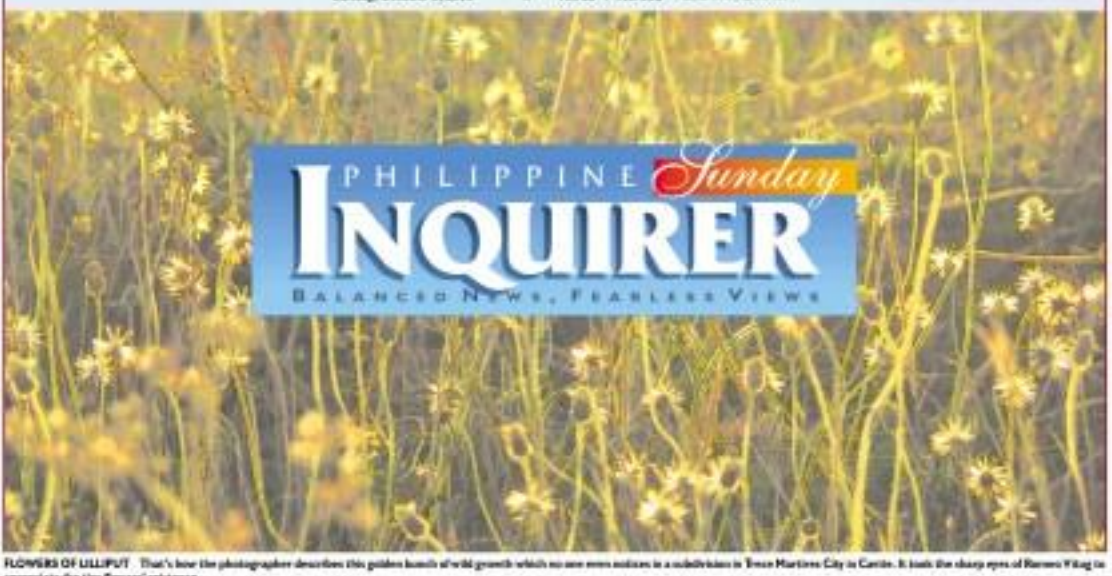
Sunday, October 5, 2008 ★ Vol. 33 / No. 302 www.inquirer.net



FLOWERS OF LILLIPUT That's how the photographer describes this golden bunch of wild growth which no one even notices in a subdivision in Town Martires City in Cavite. It took the sharp eyes of Ramon Viray to appreciate the tiny flowers' existence.

Market jitters linger

World leaders happy, but bailout OK fails to calm Wall Street

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON—THE US GOVERNMENT enacted a landmark $700-billion bank bailout on Friday (Saturday in Manila), but investors questioned whether it could contain a panic that began on Wall Street and spread to become a global financial crisis.

The US House of Representatives approved the rescue plan by a vote of 263-171 on Friday. That sent the measure to President George W. Bush, who quickly signed it into law, concluding two weeks of high-stakes haggling over the plan that had roiled and captivated global markets.

It was the largest US government economic intervention since the 1930s, after the House quelled market and political turmoil by rejecting an earlier version of the bailout on Monday.

Leaders of some of the world's biggest economies welcomed the approval of the rescue plan, calling it a responsible and necessary measure.

"I am very happy" about the US bailout plan, said French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde. "It was necessary to do it."

In Brussels, EU Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso said that US lawmakers had "shown responsibility" to tackling the financial crisis, triggered in large part by the US subprime mortgage meltdown.

"By approving the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the US legislators have shown responsibility," said Barroso, adding that the 27-nation European Union had "taken its responsibilities throughout the turmoil and continues to do so."

MARKET/A17

Inquirer gives ₱2M for UP 'newsroom'

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

IN THE BRAVE NEW WORLD OF journalism, it all starts in the classroom.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, in partnership with the University of the Philippines (UP) is financing the ₱2-million renovation of two classrooms at the College of Mass Communication.

The project is part of the Inquirer's commitment to social responsibility and aims to support the quality of higher education in the state university.

The two 24-square-meter rooms in the journalism wing of the CMC will be converted to state-of-the-art classrooms that will strengthen program offerings by giving students the knowledge and skills to practice responsible journalism.

The Inquirer will finance the reconstruction project to its completion while the state university reserves the right to use and maintain the rooms as it sees fit.

"Investing in the school's facility will help the UP develop journalists that are ready for the future," said Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-

INQUIRER/A8

THE FIRST PHILIPPINE team to the 6th Homeless World Cup in Melbourne, Australia are (standing from left) Kevin Pris Lagtay, Jay-R de Jesus, Jeffrey Solis, Nismer Olivares, Rondolf Laggabi, Ricky Binquia, Marlon Laguamino, (seated from left) Arnold Villanueva, Nilo Ventura, Russel Jacinto, Maricel Quitoy and Christian Yves Carero. PHOTO COURTESY OF SURFACE MAGAZINE

Homeless footballers lace up for 'World Cup'

By Elvira Maza

THE POLICE FOUND HIM sprawled on the street, shoeless, homeless, and high on "rebond." He had no idea how old he was and he couldn't remember his mother's name.

Seven years later, Jeffrey Solis, now 17, and a resident of Tahay sa Dos Boses, a street children's village in Alabang, Muntinlupa City is preparing to go to Melbourne, Australia, as one of 32 players of the five Philippine team competing in the Homeless World Cup.

The HWC is an international football tournament that requires teams to be composed of homeless people 17 years old and above.

But first Jeffrey needed a passport.

"Because he was under 18, we had to find his parents," Fr. Benj Mahavin, Philippine team adviser and Tahay counselor, told the Inquirer. "The mother of another boy at Tahay said she had seen Jeffrey's mother campaigning (canvassing) on the streets, and volunteered to send out word that we were looking for her."

A social worker from the Department of Social Welfare and Development tapped her own network to look for a certain "Lourdes."

They never found her. Tahay and the DSWD managed to get Jeffrey a passport, but not with-

HOMELESS/A16

Zoo animals have feelings, too

By Marlec D. Salazar
Contributor

DOGS, CATS, SNAKES AND OTHER pets took center stage yesterday, World Animal Day, for blessings in various churches and parks all over the country.

As companions of humans, they are showered with love and attention. They are cuddled and fed on time. They are seldom alone because they have human guardians to look after their needs.

But a number of animals in the Manila Zoo have been living a solitary life for many years, with only zoo keepers and veterinarians for company.

Mak, the elephant; Jess, the orangutan; the unnamed hippopotamus and cobra, and the newly donated silver fox are among the animals living in enclosures with none of their kind to

ZOO ANIMALS/A16

Coke as spermicide wins Ig Nobel award

BOSTON—OSBORN ANDERSON HAD heard the urban legends about the contraceptive qualities of Coca-Cola for years.

So one and her colleagues decided to put the soft drink to the test. In the lab, that is.

For discovering that, yes indeed, Coke was a spermicide, Anderson and her team are among this year's winners of the Ig Nobel prize, the annual award given by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine to oddball but often surprisingly practical scientific achievements.

COKE/A6

Last of trapped miners rescued after 11 days

By Elmer Kristian Dualoy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE LAST OF THE miners trapped in an abandoned tunnel in Benguet has been found despite the pullout of the rescue teams supervised by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB). He is now in police custody.

At least 20 local miners tapped by Joseph Anayamen's family continued to search for him and managed to help him out of the tunnel at about 5 p.m. on Friday, according to Fred Jacinto, a former president of an association of miners in Itogon.

Anayamen, who has pending assault and frustrated homicide cases in Baguio and Benguet, was turned over by his family to authorities at about 11 a.m. yesterday.

"He is now in a safe house and will be taken to hospital later," said the Cordillera police director, Chief Supt. Eugene Martin.

Jacinto said Anayamen's next of kin first took him to an unidentified location in Baguio as they discussed options on how they would turn him over to the police.

He said Anayamen had no major injuries but would still undergo a medical examination. He described the miner "as strong, considering the ordeal he went through."

Anayamen was one of 16 small-scale miners who entered the tunnel on Sept. 22 as Typhoon "Nina" crossed the Cordillera.

The miners were trapped in the tunnel when floodwaters induced by the typhoon swamped the area.

Only 10, including Anayamen and his brother Mario, were rescued. The bodies of the six others were found in various sections of the tunnel.

LAST/A11

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• **Cover-up of** tainted milk scandal bigger problem for China /A2
• **Night of indies** Cherry Pie didn't mind being upstaged by Ruston
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'Check China meat products, too'

Duque orders wider check after private lab finds more melamine

By Dona Pazzibugan and Edson Tandoc Jr.

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE YESTERDAY ORDERED THE BUREAU of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to expand its check for melamine on all China-made food products, including popular luncheon meats.

Duque was responding to reports a private laboratory had found eight of 14 China-made products being sold here contaminated with melamine.

Qualibev Testing Center in Quezon City said tests it conducted last week found the chemical in two milk candies, a chocolate bread, a milk powder for pregnant women, a caramelized wafer cremme used in confections, a hazelnut moist bread and a custard bun/bread.

The health secretary, however, stopped Qualibev from releasing its findings, saying those should first be validated by BFAD.

He said he had ordered BFAD, which found melamine in two milk products—Greenfood Yili Fresh Milk and Mengniu Drink—to obtain the test results from the private testing.

"We didn't commission them to do this testing," Duque said. "We already asked them to submit the samples they tested to the BFAD so we could validate their findings."

Qualibev owner Finley Tolentino, however, said the company used the same equipment as BFAD and they used legitimate melamine "reference standards" in their tests.

Melamine is a chemical used in making plastic. It is hazardous when consumed regularly for a long period because it clogs users' kidneys easily and can accumulate in the kidneys.

In China, at least four infant deaths have been linked to consumption of melamine-laced milk while more than 50,000 children have been stricken with kidney ailments.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, who chairs the Senate health committee, disagreed with Duque's move to stop the release of Qualibev's findings.

In an interview over radio dzSU yesterday, she said she found nothing wrong with private laboratories disclosing their own results as long as they were not biased against certain manufacturers.

"I also want to know the results ... Full disclosure is absolutely required," she said.

Limited resources

With its limited manpower and resources, BFAD should coordinate with private institutions and the academe to fast-track the testing, Cayetano said.

Cayetano said BFAD was not moving fast enough.

"I'm not satisfied but [BFAD is already working up on their front," she said in Filipino.

She noted that BFAD announced that Greens Food Yili Fruit Milk and Mengniu Original Drink Milk had tested positive for melamine on Oct. 3.

Banned in Hong Kong

The same two products had already been banned since September in Hong Kong, she pointed out.

BFAD is testing more products and will be ready with a new batch of results either Tuesday or Wednesday, BFAD Director Leticia Gutierrez said earlier.

The Department of Science and Technology was also said to be testing some tests.

Gutierrez said the non-melamine-contaminated products so far identified had labels in Chinese characters and did not carry BFAD registration numbers. She said it was likely the products were smuggled into the country.

Meanwhile, Customs Investigation and Intelligence Service Director James Papgunahan said his office was still holding a 40-foot container van containing P1 million worth of fruitchert chocolate candy pending customs duties.

BFAD had cleared a variant of the chocolate brand but Papgunahan said they would "wait for the BFAD to categorically state that this batch of products is fit for human consumption."

No new shipments

He said there were no new shipments of milk products from China.

But shipments from New Zealand and Australia, the top sources of imported dairy products in the country, remained unaffected, he said.

Until the melamine issue blows over, Duque said importers to be wary of bringing in food from China.

"The country will have to be more careful about food imports from China. We should step up our regulatory functions," Duque told the senate.

Guyanzon said she would file a bill on Monday that would increase the number of BFAD personnel from 500 to 1,000 so the agency is empowered to act as a watchdog over the food, medicines and cosmetics sold in the country.

She said the bill would also allow BFAD to accredit private institutions and universities to share its workload.

Cayetano said its most urgent, shorter term-only one BFAD inspector to cover 400 to 600 retail stores. "Even if he works every day of the year he can go to all these stores," she said.

She said the bill also increases the penalty for manufacturers and distributors of adulterated products.

'Cover-up more damaging to China'

By Yi Burgonio

MORE DAMAGING THAN THE TAINTING of dairy products with melamine is the cover-up of the scandal by Chinese authorities, a Hong Kong-based Filipino journalist said yesterday.

Chito Sta. Romana, chief of the ABC News Bureau in China, said the tainted milk scandal was proof of a "failure of the Chinese system of governance," particularly its regulatory system.

"It's the result of the greed that has been unleashed on Chinese society by the economic reforms [and is proof] of the failure of the system of governance," he said in a radio blurb over Inter-Aksyon in Quezon City.

What complicated the scandal was the cover-up by Chinese authorities in the run-up to the Olympics, said Sta. Romana, who is in Manila for a visit.

"It's clear that Chinese officials at the local level knew about this as early as July, some say as early as December. But they didn't want to bring it to the attention of the national leadership and they didn't want it revealed in the media because of the Olympics," he said.

Food safety has been an issue in China, since as when China made just food that was being exported to the United States was found to be tainted with melamine, according to Sta. Romana.

"It has come back with a vengeance in this case, milk. And it has become a source of panic," he said. "But it doesn't mean that all milk from China is bad."

Sta. Romana also laughed off talk the Chinese purposely lured the dairy products with melamine in support of the state's one-child policy.

"I don't think so. If it turns out to be the case, it would really be a major scandal. It could be the tipping point in terms of public dissatisfaction because this is one case where the public panicked—and very sensibly—as what happened with SARS," he said, referring to the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003 and 2004.

Afraid of Chinese milk? Try local carabaos' output

By Yolanda Isleta-Fuentes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DIADOLTA CITY—HATE MELAMINE-tainted milk from China? Try fresh milk from local carabaos.

"Everyone is afraid of drinking milk from China. Our carabaos are tended by food farmers. Surely all the milk you want will have purifying your children's health in danger," said Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr.

Perez said more farmers should get involved in local dairy production. It would increase the production of milk that is safe to drink and it could be an alternative source of income.

Milk from local carabaos is processed in the Eastern Pangasinan Dairy's processing and production facility in Barangay Tulong here.

It is a project of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), the Eastern Pangasinan Dairy Cooperative, the Urdaneta City government, the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and farmers' groups in four Pangasinan towns.

Milk brought to the Eastern Pangasinan Dairy is processed into pasteurized milk, milk chocolate, lacto-juice (fruit flavored milk), pastillas de leche (milk candy) and buong pinol (condensed milk).

"We are re-energizing the carabao milk industry," said Jovencio Perez, a Tesda Pangasinan official, noting that farmers and their families were being trained in the basics of production and processing.

Modesto Gabriel, a member of the Asingan cooperative, said there is money in dairy production.

"Even if a farmer produces only five liters of milk a day and sells it for P30 a liter, he could still earn P150 daily," he said.

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Stay the course, GMA urges Pinoys, after US bailout

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SEES saving around the $700-billion US bail-out plan as "the start of a long process of recovery for the shaken confidence in the financial markets."

The President predicted "this will be a long road" and asked Filipinos to "stay the course," amid fears here and in the United States.

In a text message, Bojeros said, however, that the Philippines would have to continue to brace itself, like all other countries, to weather the global financial crisis.

"While President is not in place early on some economic fundamentals that helped the country ride the storm, nonetheless, we should all continue to stay the course," he said.

In a phone interview, Socioeconomic Secretary Ralph Recto said the bailout package signed by US President George W. Bush's (which was the "beginning of a solution," but he says the global economy slumping with China playing a bigger role.

Recto, who is also director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the bailout would help instill renewed confidence in the US economy, citing the "direct and indirect" impacts of the rescue plan.

With the $700 billion, the US government will be able to buy bad bank debts to sell later to private entities. Also allowing Philippine banks with exposure to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and investment houses to recover a portion of their investments, he said.

Conversely, if the US Congress had rejected the bailout plan, local banks exposed to Lehman Brothers, etc.) would have gotten "zero value" for their investments, Recto said.

"That's the direct benefit our banks will get," he said.

Indirectly, the Philippines will benefit from the rescue package because when banks start lending to each other again in the US, it will benefit the Asian economies.

With the higher interest rates now in the US, US consumers—mostly using credit cards—are reluctant to make purchases.

Part 8 Americans have the means to purchase consumables, especially imported electronic products from China and the Philippines, there "is benefits Philippine exporters," he said.

US banks are hoarding their cash and are afraid to lend money to other distressed banks, Recto said.

"This is happening all over the world, so to

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government is ready to help the US crisis would not accumulate," Cruz said in a statement.

Teves that the bailout has been approved, I think there will be normalcy, the global economy will rebound, and there is a big possibility the goal of the Duterte administration. It's next year will be achieved," he said.

House Minority Leader Nereida Zamora, during committee of the whole deliberations on the trillion-peso budget for 2009, said the proposed outlay needed to be trimmed to prepare for the effects of the US financial crisis.

"We have to cut the fat ... what we need is a lean and mean fighting budget," Zamora said, adding the interpellation of National Economic and Development Authority Director General Ralph Recto.

Speaker Prospero Nograles supported the budget panel, stating the US crisis made it more imperative for the government to invest in infrastructure.

No need to trim budget, says solon

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE BUDGET committee yesterday defended the proposed P1.417-trillion national budget for 2009 from the opposition's call to slash P209 billion from it to help the country weather the fallout of the financial crisis in the United States.

Quezon Rep. Jesse Cua, chair of the committee on appropriations, said there was no need for the huge budget cut because the country needed the funds to "pump-prime" the economy with increased spending on infrastructure and agriculture.

Cua said he expected the disastrous effect of the US and international markets to contribute billions to the US Congress' enactment of a $700-billion bailout plan.

"We should stick with the budget. I would like to be optimistic. The idea of cutting the budget is based on the assumption the US crisis

Correction

IN THE OCT. 4 ISSUE, a story on Page A10—"Bland officials charged over Bed spiral, land fill"—inconsistently included Bonifacio Cruz Ebarle Parks Inspector 1 in the headline, and Bonifacio Cruz Ebarle Parks Inspector 1 in the story. The correct name is Bonifacio Cruz Ebarle, Parks Inspector 1.

$.5M for kids in South

A UNITED NATIONS children's agency will spend $500,000 ($23.5 million) over the next three months to help displaced children in Mindanao as the fighting between government troops and secessionist rebels continues.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said yesterday Germany would be its latest to set up child-safe spaces in evacuation centers and ensure families' access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

According to Unicef estimates, more than 50,000 people affected by the fighting have fled their homes in Central Mindanao, half of them children.

"After a second [displacement] camp, we need to urgently focus on creating a stable, secure environment for children as well as [set up] water and sanitation facilities in the evacuation centers," she said in a statement.

The cartoon said a number of parents acted upon of distress in their young children as a result of the prolonged conflict and displacement, according to Tobia.

This was why, she said, the agency would focus on creating child-friendly spaces inside evacuation centers to provide not only basic services but also psychosocial support for children. (Reuters)

Different people
Different meters

Newborn Screening program ensures healthy citizens

The Department of Health (DOH) recognizes that a healthy citizenry is an important and vital asset for our national development. True to its mandate to protect and promote the health of every Filipino, especially the underprivileged, the DOH is implementing the Expanded Newborn Screening (NBS) program to ensure that babies born with metabolic disorders are detected early. The core part of the DOH's many contributions to the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program, a comprehensive and poverty-alleviation strategy of the Arroyo Administration.

NBS Screening Procedure: 1. Blood is taken from baby's heel. 2. Blood is placed on filter paper. 3. Filter paper is sent to the Newborn Screening Laboratory (NBS Lab). The NBS Lab charges a minimal amount for the screening, which is reimbursed by Philhealth.

Baby's blood sample undergoes screen, confirmatory testing if there. If a case is likely to be confirmed, the parents of the baby are advised to bring the baby to the nearest hospital or specialist for confirmatory testing and further management.

Therapy is available for the following conditions: congenital hypothyroidism, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, galactosemia, phenylketonuria, maple syrup urine disease, biotinidase deficiency, and sickle cell disease.

The nationwide screening program of the Department of Health (DOH) complements the Philippine Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program of the Arroyo government. It also contributes to the achievement of the Health Millennium Development Goals.

Philippine Pediatric Society

The UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

is now accepting applications for first year Medicine for Academic Year 2009-2010. Application forms are available at the Admissions Office, 2/F St. Martin de Porres (Medicine) Building.

Applications may be filed from October 13 to November 21, 2008, based on the following schedule:

APPLICANT SURNAMES	APPLICATION FILING DATES
A to H	October 13-24, 2008
I to P	October 27- November 7, 2008
Q to Z	November 10-21, 2008

The Entrance Examination will be administered on January 10, 2009.
For more information, please call Tel. No. 406-16-11, loc. 8382.

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Deadline for Submission of Applications with complete requirements including payment : 01 December 2008 (Monday)

the application form may be downloaded at the PCP website

Applications sent by mail should be postmarked not later than: 31 October 2008 (Friday)

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

For Transmittals/Applications sent by email will not be accepted. There will be no extensions of the deadline

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS
Examination Date : 25 January 2009, Sunday, Manila

LESNIE Dumagat (left) cries over the remains of her husband, Jason Dumagat, who was killed when pirates boarded his ship off Somalia.

Pirates only after cash, says captain

By Cynthia D. Balana

"THEY ONLY WANTED MONEY," WILLSON Cayo, Romulo Bahayang, spokesperson of the 14 freed Filipino crew members of Malaysian tankers MT Bunga Melati 2 and MT Bunga Melati 5, narrated up their 41-day captivity in the hands of Somali pirates.

"I was the only one talking to the pirates. They said they only wanted money. They said they didn't want to start a war," Bahayang said in a press conference yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) after their arrival from Malaysia.

The seamen were welcomed by Mrs Presidente Nobela Cesario, who is also the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers.

Government officials, the Malaysian shipping agency Mise Herbad and its local manning counterpart, Penda Maritime Agency Corp. also welcomed the OFWs.

Bahayang, 32, said "in the beginning, it was not so bad." He said they ate the ship's provisions during the first 30 days of their captivity. "Then the pirates started feeding them rice and nothing else.

Life on the ship became difficult, said Bahayang, a seaman of 11 years. All the doors on the ship were guarded by heavily armed pirates and the crew were not allowed to move around.

Prayers helped

Chief Engineer Benito Adsoy said prayers kept their spirits up.

Bahayang and Adsoy were two of the nine Filipino crew of the MT Bunga Melati 2 that was hijacked on Aug. 18. The other seamen were Alfel Ojimera, Rodolfo Balmores Jr., Marcelo Bacsoy III, Nemen Hermano, Nading Magnas, Lee Andrew Bijia and Horacio Medrigo.

Another seaman, Jason Dumagat, 26, died instantly when one of the nine pirates who boarded their ship fired a warning shot. Bahayang said the bullet hit the ceiling but it ricocheted and hit Dumagat in the face. His remains were received by his relatives and government officials at the cargo section of the airport.

On the other hand, the MT Bunga Melati 5, which was seized by pirates days later, had five Filipino crew members on board, namely Nilmario Cargullo, Alden Palomo, Manuel Inocencio, Efraguth Saludsa and Ulysses Magenling.

At least 61 more Filipino seamen are on different ships are still being held captive by Somali pirates.

While the returning OFWs were not sure if ransom had been paid for their release, a Malaysian official of their shipping agency confirmed that money changed hands for both ships.

Pinoys beaten

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ILLEGAL FILIPINO workers expelled from Malaysia's Sabah state have been severely beaten by police, a fact-finding body said on Saturday.

Thousands of Filipinos, including women and children, remained in Malaysian detention centers "suffering from inhumane conditions," said Gabriela party-list Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, a member of the Fact-Finding Committee on Sabah Deportees.

"Filipino detainees and those who have already been deported to the Philippines have experienced severe beatings from Malaysian police while under detention," Ilagan said in a press in this city which serves as the usual point for deported Filipinos.

Ilagan urged the government to provide the deportees with assistance to ensure they would not return to Sabah as illegals.

She also pushed for a House investigation into the alleged abuses by Malaysian police. Malaysia announced a limit crackdown on illegals early this year and thousands of Filipinos have been deported since. AFP

GREETINGS

DR. BILL & EVELYN HAMON
Bishops and Founders, Christian International Ministries Network
Florida, USA

We congratulate Jesus Is Lord for 30 years of ministry! Dr. Eddie, you are among the top 7% of Christian leaders who are affecting their nation and the world. We remember being with you during the 25th anniversary of Jesus Is Lord. Many of the political leaders were there on the platform and 2 million ralliers or more were spoke that night. I know of no other leader who can assemble so many people! ... You have great accomplishments yet I see prophetically are your greatest days are ahead of you. You will have a destiny to help make The Philippines a Kingdom of God nation.

DR. CINDY JACOBS
Founder, Generals International
Texas, USA

I have the wonderful privilege of saying happy anniversary to a movement that is one of the most amazing, dynamic ones on the face of the earth! Oh... you are wonderful! Happy, happy anniversary! You are moving into your best days. Isaiah 54:2. "Enlarge the place of your tent!" The nations are calling you. God bless you!

MICHAEL T. MCKINNEY, Ph.D., Th.D.
Pentecostal Christian University
Caribbean, USA

God awaked a man to stand in the gap for the nation of the Philippines and 30 years ago a young man and his family answered that call without reservation. Today in 2008, we see the fruit of a yielded life and an church in the hearts of many precious, but to the millions of lives that were touched and transformed by God. As years to come, we will stand with you for the final work that God has called you to, the transformation of your beloved nation into a nation that puts their trust and hope in God!

DR. GARY GREENWALD
Senior Pastor, Eagle's Nest Ministries
California, USA

Congratulations to JIL on your 30th anniversary! Your ministry has impacted my life and everywhere I go around the world, your people treat me like family. Bro. Eddie, when I met you for the first time, I was very impressed with how humble you were considering the magnitude of the JIL ministries all over the world. I pray God will give you many more years to serve and just be a friend to you as we bring God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. God bless you!

REV. DEXTER LOM
Pastor, Luter Rain Church
Malaysia

Your ministry has spread all over the 41 countries of the world has more or so some. There'll be manifestations. There'll be acceleration. There'll be multiplying effect upon your ministry as it may you never dreamed possible before. Bro Eddie, I've known you for a long time, 26 years by now. Since the first day I met you up to now, you've been very consistent as a man of God, a godly man of God. A man who has a heart of God, a heart for your people, a man who is a visionary, a man who has great leadership ability, a man who is so focused, a man who can't be sidetracked by any other thing to fulfill what God has put upon your heart to fulfill. And you are by big mark life over the last 30 years since I met you and I've seen the highest of your heart to forgive those who wronged you, willing to reconcile with people that hurt you in some ways. I see your generosity, able to give and give and give, and help those who are less fortunate. Great things are ahead of you! I pray that God will give you good health and great family life! All the blessings that He ever intends to bless you with will begin to be released upon you from now and always. God bless you!

PROPHET ABU BAKO
Republic of Ghana

Bro. Eddie, it's such a wonderful time to celebrate God's grace upon your life. And the fact that you've been faithful, I salute you and I celebrate God's grace and anointing upon your life. I celebrate your courage in what Him. You are valiant in general in the army of the Most High God. You are one of those who stand for truth, righteousness, and justice which are the foundations of God's rule. Continue to press on because indeed that which He has ordained the will bring to pass. I also salute you on this 30th anniversary of the Jesus Is Lord Church. A lot have because of your faithfulness that the Bible study group which started very small, has blossomed, and multiplied worldwide into literally millions of people now. I believe this is just the tip of the iceberg. Because it was only when Jesus was 30 years old that He entered into the ministry and revolutionized the whole world, within three and a half years. God brings you now to that place where you will revolutionize the world by the anointing of the grace of God upon your life.

More in the blessing of His glory that will add to completion to whatever you've sacrificed... Because what you are about to see is something that no man has seen nor heard or perceived yet. We declare you are entering into another level of the blessing of God wherever you go. You'll be a blessing that will make a difference. May God continue to defend His cause and His portion in your life, through your life, over your life, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Bless you!

*Delayed Telecast at QTV 11 @ 11PM *webcast www.jilworldwide.org *Live 702 DZAS *260 Cable Channels Nationwide

The Right Meal Plan, The Key for Managing Diabetes

Although diabetes could lead to complications, there is always hope for diabetic people. In general, the effective way to prevent complications is to have a lifestyle change and to exercise regularly.

Managing Diabetes

According to the World Health Organization, diabetes is one of the main threats to global health, similar to cardiovascular diseases. However, the disease can be managed to several ways.

There are two objectives in managing diabetes - short term and long term. The short term objective is to improve the quality of life. This includes managing the symptoms of diabetes, keeping your everyday joys of eating healthy foods and maintaining blood sugar within the recommended target range. On the other hand, the long term objective is to prevent further complications from happening.

Five things are recommended in managing diabetes:

1. Sufficient knowledge about diabetes
2. Appropriate meal plan
3. Regular exercise
4. Medication use
5. Blood sugar check

Following a Meal Plan is one of the most effective ways to manage the disease. Diabetics need to comply and stick to a doctor-recommended dietary plan to prevent further complications.

Meal Plan

The objective of having a Meal Plan is to help maintain this blood sugar level within the recommended target range.

Each individual will have a different Meal Plan depending on his or her unique needs. A good Meal Plan takes into consideration gender, age, body height, body weight, daily activities as well as the diabetic treatment of the patient.

It is recommended to consult an expert to help prepare a Meal Plan. By doing so, a diabetic will get the the right diet that will be effective in managing the condition and preventing further complications without having to be heavily dependent on medication.

Steps towards a Good Meal Plan

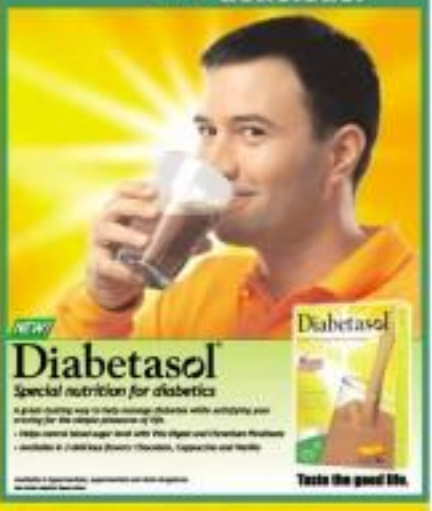
- Prepare a Meal Plan that gives guidelines on the quantity and type of food that are to be taken in meals and snacks. Take note of the recommended total calorie intake based on gender, age, and daily activities.
- Ensure that the Meal Plan fits daily schedules and eating habits.
- The Meal Plan should be tailor-fitted to help control blood sugar level while maintaining the right blood pressure and cholesterol levels, as well as helping in weight management.
- Balance out nutrition and exercise, and do it generally in tune with a doctor's recommendation.

Tips on Eating Habits

If you are diabetic, you don't have to stop eating all your favorite foods or ordering delicious foods. Moreover, you have to make some healthy choices of food, limit the intake of certain foods.

- Enjoy a balanced diet of carbohydrates, proteins and fats.
- Eat when you are hungry. Set aside your three meals.
- Check the food label to the last digging.
- Consume foods such as:
  - Green leafy vegetables
  - Ripe/fiber foods and low fruit, and vegetables
  - Carbohydrates such as rice, bread, potato in the right quantities
  - Protein-rich foods, chicken, fish, skim milk, and soy based products.
- Avoid foods such as:
  - Sweet foods sugary jam, syrup, soft drink
  - Dark fried and deep-fried food
  - Imitation / packed food

"Who says diabetic nutrition can't be delicious?"



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Zoo animals have feelings, too

From page A1

interact with, according to Dr. Ronald Mendiratta, chief of the Manila Zoo's Zoological Division.

But Mendiratta was quick to say that the zoo was working to ease the animals' emotional stress through a behavioral-enrichment program.

"We try to provide some activities to ease their boredom," he said.

For example, food is provided in a way that allows the animals to "hunt."

Thus, Mali's fruits are frozen and presented in a pail. "She has to sweep them up," said Mendiratta, who joined the zoo's veterinary team in 1997.

Sow is given a "phone book" where seeds are hidden in between the pages.

Food for the tigers is strategically located in their enclosures to allow them to track it by its odor; cavities are sometimes scattered in the straw for the birds to peck.

And to sustain his interest in digging, the silver fox is given a sandbox-type pen.

All these, Mendiratta said, are "to help their stimulate their minds and to at least not take their solid instincts from them."

CAPTIVE LANDING: A falcon abandoned by its owner and donated to the Wildlife Rescue Center of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City ... JERRY ANDRE

Sociable and affectionate

Mali, an Asian elephant (Elephas maximus), is easily one of the most popular animals at the 5.5-hectare zoo because she greets visitors at the entrance.

Mendiratta said Mali arrived at the zoo in the 1980s as a replacement of an elephant (one of two) who had died. A few years later, the other elephant also died.

Since then, Mali has been spending her life alone.

The National Geographic website states that Asian elephants, the largest animals on earth, "roam great distances while foraging for the large quantities of food they require to sustain their massive bodies."

As shown in many documentaries, elephants are highly sociable animals who live in herds.

They have extended families, and the whole herd takes care of and protects the young.

They are also affectionate animals who grieve for a long period of time over the death of their kind.

Highly intelligent

The orangutan Sow (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and a male partner arrived at the zoo also in the early 1980s.

The male died two years later due to "a liver problem," and Sow became but a mere inner there, Mendiratta said.

She is often observed in her enclosure that resembles a huge bird cage, looking forlornly at the people who either tease her or throw food at her just to make her move.

Sow often takes one of letters who obey into her cage, Mendiratta said. "She cuddles them until they grow and leaves."

According to the National Geographic, orangutans are "highly intelligent and have close relatives in humans."

They are endemic to Sumatra and Borneo.

Family animals

While orangutans are considered more solitary creatures than apes, they keep in contact with their own species by howling and making rumbling sounds.

Orangutan literally means "person of the forest."

...Bandera and an elephant named Mali at the Manila Zoo TONYO G. DELEON

Hippos (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) are two little animals, so to speak.

The renowned female hippo has surpassed her life span (hippos live up to 40 years, according to National Geographic).

She arrived at the Manila Zoo in the early 1980s and her partner died there in four years ago "because of system failure due to old age," Mendiratta said.

The hippo has given birth, but her calf did not live long. "It's because the mother didn't show the mat aring to reject to care for her child," Mendiratta said.

Hippos travel as much as 30 kilometers in one night and "spend 16 hours a day submerged in rivers and lakes to keep their bodies cool."

Female hippos produce offspring every two years and join other hippos in a school to protect themselves against predators.

The rhino, on the other hand, lost her kind one by one over the years. She is now with a rabbit horse in one area of the zoo.

Rhinos are described as "social animals that spend time in herds. They graze together, primarily on grass, and groom one another ... They live in small family groups consisting of a male (stallion), several females, and their young. These units may combine with others to form over-lapping herds thousands of kind strong, but family members will remain close within the herd."

'Zoochecks'

The animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific has been lobbying for the closure of the Manila Zoo, citing the ill effects of confining wild animals in an environment not suitable for their natural build and instinct.

But it acknowledges that closing the zoo and releasing the animals into the wild is a necessary process and cannot be done overnight.

Quoting a term coined by Bill Travers of the Born Free Foundation, which is also working on freeing captive wild animals, Peta cites the psychological condition called "zoochosis," in which an animal displays "abnormal and repetitive behavior."

"The symptoms include incessant pacing in one area, bar biting, neck bobbing, swaying, and coprophagy," Peta said, adding that the condition was considered "a sign of mental illness."

But Mendiratta said, "We don't get animals from the wild; what we bring in are captive-bred animals while some are donated by private individuals."

Expenses

The Manila government has used plans to import animals for the zoo, but as Mendiratta pointed out, "It is much too expensive to bring other animals to pair with the single ones here."

His rough estimate of the cost was between P1 million and P5 million, the bulk being freight charges.

The zoo operates under the Public Recreation Bureau and is allocated a budget every year like any other government unit.

It annually spends P12.5 million annually on food and about P300,000-P400,000 on vitamins, supplements and medications.

Its income goes straight to the city government's treasury.

Entrance ticket Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim to just consider closing the zoo, refurbishing those animals that could still be saved, releasing them into the wild "where they truly belong," or sending them to sanctuaries to allow them to interact with their own kind.

Mendiratta said, however, that because the zoo animals had been "humed" for a long time, there was a great chance that they had lost their survival skills and would only end up as unsuspecting prey.

"Here at the zoo, they live a longer life, as opposed to reintroducing them to an environment in which they don't know how to survive," he said.

But apart from the zoo's behavioral enrichment program, what to do with the solitary Mali, Sow, the hippo, the rhino, and the silver fox?

Palek Tigger in "Winnie the Pooh," when he first realized there were other Tiggers out there that he didn't know existed.

Coke as ...

From page A1

The economy at Harvard University in which actual Nobel laureates bemoan the awards, also featured a British psychologist who found fresh clues as to and letters taste better; a group of researchers who discovered music dancers make more money when they are at peak fertility; and a pair of Brazilian archaeologists who determined masculine cuts change the course of history.

Diet Coke works better

Anderson, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston University's School of Medicine, and her colleagues found that not only was Coca-Cola a spermicide, but that Diet Coke for some reason worked best. Their study appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1995.

"We're thrilled to win an Ig Nobel, because the study was somewhat of a parody in the first place," Anderson said, adding she does not recommend using Coke for birth control purposes.

A group of Taiwanese doctors were honored for a similar study that found Coca-Cola and other soft drinks were not effective contraceptives. Anderson said the studies used different methodology.

A Coca-Cola spokesperson refused comment on the Ig Nobel awards.

Expensive fakes

Duke University behavioral economist Dan Ariely won an Ig Nobel for his study that found most expensive fake medicines work better than cheaper fake medications.

"When you expect something to happen, your brain makes it happen," Ariely said.

Ariely found fifteen years in a hospital after suffering third-degree burns over 70 percent of his body. He ordered some burn patients who woke in the night to consume pain relievers right back to sleep after being given a shot. A nurse confided in him the injections were often just saline solution.

He says his results have implications for the way drugs are marketed. People often think generic medicine is inferior. But "generic it up a bit, change the name, make it appear more expensive, and maybe it will work better, he said.

Charles Spence's award-winning work also has to do with the way the mind functions. Spence, a professor of experimental psychology at Oxford University in England, found that potato chips—"crisps" in the British—that sound crunchier taste better.

His findings have already been put to work in the world famous Fat Duck Restaurant in England, where diners who purchase one seafood dish also get an iPod that plays ocean sounds as they eat.

Fertile dancers earn more

Geoffrey Miller's work could affect the entrepreneurial of exotic dancers everywhere.

Miller, an associate professor of psychology at the University of New Mexico, said his colleague knew of prior studies that found women are more attractive to men when at peak fertility. So they took the work one step further—by studying customs of exotic dancers.

In the 14 lapdances Miller studied, average earnings were $250 for a five-hour shift. Those pegged as fertile—$400 per five-hour shift—also the women were their most fertile, he said.

"I have heard, anecdotally, that some lap dancers have scheduled shifts based on this research," he said.

Bernadillos helped raise an Ig Nobel for mobile phones in Manila in 1999, a professor of anthropology at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and a colleague earned.

Friday, Bernadillos, their son, and one another in archaeological digs dress up, dress and eat laterally by several meters in their dig. Arbernadillos are burrowing mammals and prolific diggers. Their abodes can range from a single burrow 20 inches 150 centimeters) deep, to more permanent homes reaching 30 feet 10 meters) deep with networks of tunnels and multiple entrances, according to the Humane Society of the United States (Web site.

Arroyo was thrilled to win. "There is no word in Pinoy for embarrassment," she said. "I feel it's a good thing," he said in a word. AP

Inquirer gives ₱2M for UP 'newsroom'

From page A1

Romualdez during the event signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) at UP Diliman in Quezon City.

The amount is the biggest monetary donation the Inquirer has given to any institution.

"It's worth it knowing that many journalists-in-the-making will benefit from the project," Romualdez said.

Electronic newsroom

Renovation of the classrooms begin in March next year and will finish before June—in time for the school opening.

After the renovation, the rooms formerly known as M-211 and M-209 will be renamed "Philippine Daily Inquirer Electronic Newsroom" and the "Inquirer.net Classroom," respectively.

The electronic newsroom will have 30 computers while the Inquirer.net classroom will be equipped with a computer, an LCD projector, a screen and other electronic equipment, all of which will be purchased by the UP.

Both classrooms will be used to teach news reporting, news, duties in journalism and related journalism.

History of cooperation

UP president Emerlinda Roman said she is pleased to continue the long history of cooperation with the Inquirer, which supports college scholars, most of whom are journalism students at the CMC.

"More than the monetary help, what's significant is the message the Inquirer is sending to the public: That investing in quality higher education is of utmost importance," Roman said.

She added that she is "touched" that the Inquirer has chosen to support the UP especially since the budget for facilities enhancement has been reduced. Much needs to be improved, Roman noted, but credit the Inquirer for being a catalyst for a more "sophisticated" education.

"This is an indication of the Inquirer's trust and confidence in the university, particularly in the College of Mass Communication," Roman said.

Last look

The CMC recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

According to CMC Dean Rolando Pertcia, there is an average of 900 undergraduate students in any given school year. A third of this number major in journalism. The oldest of the four majors at CMC.

Pertcia gave Romualdez and other faculty members a quick tour of the classrooms—a sort of last look before the renovation scheduled in March.

UP PRESIDENT Dr. Emerlinda Roman (second from right) receives the third of donation for P2 million for the UP College of Mass Communication from Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto Romualdez (at Cesario Kalaw Jr., Inquirer Corporate Affairs head, and Dr. Elmer Pertcia, CMC dean (right). Look on ... ALDEN ARCILLAS

Oil tax no reason to stop rollbacks, says Dureza

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE PUBLIC IS STILL ENTITLED TO THE rollbacks even after Malacañang reinstated a one-percent tariff on oil products at the beginning of this month.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said tariff exists yesterday the big and small oil players would not use the tariff to justify stopping the rollbacks since would oil prices continued to soften.

Dureza said Socioeconomic Secretary Ralph Recto believed the public was entitled to more fuel price reductions.

"The oil companies have to reduce prices further," said Dureza, crediting to say he knows much, but that is not a "hefty" amount.

Earlier, Consumer watchdog Pinoy Watch chair Raul Concepcion said that apart from his own pessimism, oil firms still needed to trim prices by more than 40 per liter.

"But you know, this will have to be looked into. We always say market forces will determine all of this. So other companies have already rolled back prices. As for those who refuse to, well, let the people prove the gas stations that have lowered their prices," Dureza said.

Nothing new

Dureza said the tariff on oil was nothing new.

"That had been agreed upon sometime ago. (but) it was suspended when the price of oil in the world market jacked up. The tariff arrangement was not imposed only now; it was reschedule that had been agreed upon before," he said.

When the price of crude goes up to $140 (a barrel), the government removes the tariff so as not to unduly burden consumers, he said, quoting from an order President Macapagal-Arroyo issued this year.

But when the price of crude goes down to between $90 and $100, the government has to reimpose the tariff, he said.

"It will be imposed automatically, and if it goes down further to $80, the tariff will be (further) increased. So the oil companies are on really honest in saying that they can't roll back prices because of the tariff imposed on oil," he said.

Temporarily removed

The original three-percent tariff on oil was temporarily removed in June by President Arroyo when global prices breached $120 per barrel, sparking weekend increases in pump prices.

Oil fell to $97 a barrel on Thursday, after the US Senate approved a $700-billion bailout of America's financial institutions.

Oil prices fell further to $95 a barrel in Asia Friday as light, sweet crude for November delivery was down 52 cents to $93.45 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange in Singapore.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 5, 2008
(26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
1st Reading: Is 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved the love song of my beloved about his vineyard.

My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill-side. He dug it up, cleared the stones, and planted it to the choicest vines. He built there a watchtower and hewed out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do that I have not done for my vineyard? Good grapes was the yield I expected, why did it yield only wild grapes?

Now I will let you know what I am going to do with my vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be burned; I will break down its wall and it will be trampled on. I will make it a wasteland, I will neither prune nor hoe it, and briers and thorns will grow there. I command the clouds, as well, never to rain on it.

The vineyard of Yahweh Sabaoth is the people of Israel, and the people of Judah are his beloved vine. He looked for justice, but found bloodshed; he looked for righteousness but heard cries of distress.

2nd Reading: Phil 4:6-9

Brothers and sisters, do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, relying on prayer and supplication together with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Then the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, fill your minds with whatever is truthful, holy, just, pure, lovely and noble. Be mindful of whatever deserves praise and admiration. The same practice which you have learned or received or heard or seen in me, while you heard from me or saw me do so, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: Mt 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders, "Hear now a parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a hole for the winepress, built a watchtower, leased the vineyard to tenants and then went to a distant country. When harvest time came, the landowners sent his servants to the tenants to collect his share of the harvest. But the tenants seized his servants; here one, killed another and stoned another.

"Again the owner sent more servants, but they were treated in the same way.

"Finally, he sent his son, thinking: 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they thought: 'This is the one who is to inherit the vineyard. Let us kill him and his inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"Now, what will the owner of the vineyard do with the tenants when he comes?" They said to him, "He will bring them evil to an evil end, and lease the vineyard to others who will pay him in due time."

And Jesus replied, "Have you never read what the Scriptures say? 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and we rejoice at it. Therefore I say to you: the kingdom of heaven will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its harvest."

Commentary:

After Ezekiel of the exiles to think that they could get away with such actions! In court of law would recognize their claims upon the land of the owner, for the ground was sold dead in virtue of their presumption.

We presume upon the mercy of God when we are allured by the seductive whisper of the flesh, the One who tells us of our sins "It's not so bad," and "Don't worry, everyone does it." Our foolish ears are often so allow ourselves to be convinced by the one whose promises are empty and whose aim is only to destroy our souls.

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Homeless footballers lace up for 'World Cup'

By Inquirer 4U

...out filing a substantial amount of paperwork.

In August, Jeffrey's mother teamed up. Her name was actually Edna.

"The boy had given us a different name. That's why we couldn't find him. But the two looked so much alike; it was undeniable...he was her son," Mobuda said.

After seven years, mother and son were reunited in Cebu. She asked him with tears in her eyes: "Kumusta ka na. Bhoy are you?"

"OK naman," he replied with...

...our franchises is empty, and send to fill in the unfound residence by telling her about his transitional technology course in adaptive ideas and air conditioning and how he spent his weekends...planting sweet flour to enhance a day to prepare for the 2005 in Osaka.

Changing lives

The HWC, according to its website (www.homelessworldcup.org), is "an annual, international festival football tournament, uniting teams of people who are homeless and excluded to take a once in a lifetime opportunity to represent their country and change their lives forever."

The first tournament, which brought together 17 nations and some 64 players to Graz, Austria, in 2003. In the 5th HWC in Copenhagen last year, 46 nations representing 300 players competed. The Top Finishers were from Scotland, Poland and Liberia.

This year, the event takes place in Melbourne on Dec. 1-7 with over 50 countries expected to attend.

The Philippines is competing for the first time in the mixed-team category with eight official players and four reserve, or a total of 12 players.

Hidden number selections from Tulay and the other half from Diego Rabanos, a dealer run by the DSWD in Mandaluyong.

Said William Hoiss, executive director of Urban Opportunities for Change Foundation Inc., the organizer of HWC here: "The event is more than just football. It began in Graz as the global issue of poverty and homelessness. Hopefully it will draw attention to the [situation] and bring about change."

The foundation, which also publishes Inquirer magazine, is a member of the International Network of Street Papers, which started the HWC.

Making a difference

A research conducted six months after the 2000 HWC in Cape Town, South Africa, showed that 71 percent of the players had significantly improved their lives through employment, housing, education and drug or alcohol treatment programs.

Some of the players went on to become coach, professional or professional football players.

HWC Philippines board of personnel Ed Rosario, who worked closely with the Philippine Football Federation media and marketing department, hopes the same opportunities await the Philippine team.

Tulay founder Fr. Boyet Evangelista and Hayon head coach Lowie Lumigan, together with head coach Marlon Mara and assistant coach Jess Lumigan, held tryouts and chose the official players: Jay-R de Jesus, 18, Kevin Rick Lopito, 17, Jeffrey Bolin, 17, Modon Lagundino, 17 (all from Tulay), and Mike Ventura, 18, Rodolf Luggabi, 18, Samuel Jacinto, 18, and Ricky Elopito, 20 (all from Hayon).

The reserve players are Nestor Dionero, 17, and Clemente Von Cacon, 16, from Tulay and Marcel Quilop, 17, and Arnold Villanueva, 18, from Hayon.

The players—most of them 17 to 18—are probably the youngest to compete in the tournament. While they lack in experience and skills, they more than make up for with their determination. They're all here," Rosario said.

Children's stories

Most of the kids were abandoned or left in an orphanage because their parents were unable to care for them. Others were runaways who ended up on the streets selling solvent or maybe sniffing or inside Metro in the public market.

Others, though underage, were forced to work as helpers or peasant workers.

Jay-R and his five siblings were abandoned by their mother in Dumaguete. Earlier, he'd resided in the jungle of Negros in search of metal and plastic to sell for food. Scared that the neighbors would find them.

With no sign of either parent coming back, Jay-R was brought to Tulay when he was 12. Inside, kings were taken to another center. He is now the Philippine team captain and is enrolled into vocational technical course in automotive repair at Tulay.

Mike was rescued by National Bureau of Investigation agents from a garment factory in Quezon City. She was only 10 a runaway from Bohol, where she was brought to Mayon.

"Now she goes to high school and plays soccer. She dreams of one day becoming a "secret agent" because, she told the inquirer, "I want to rescue the other kids who have been abused or beaten."

When Ricky was seven, his uncle sent him to work as a servant in Bulacan and then kept the boy's salary for himself.

When the employers decided to informally adopt Ricky, the uncle forced his way into the house, grabbed the boy and started to beat him.

The police came and took Ricky to Hayon, where he was able to...

...first-year high school student. He is now studying at the Rizal Technological University (RTU), hoping to complete an electrical engineering course in a couple more years.

'We've got a team!'

The first game of street football matches take place in various half-pitches approximately 40 meters by 50 meters, or about the size of a tennis court. Each team has eight players on the bench, four of whom are on the pitch at any one time.

Each half lasts for seven minutes and players can be shown a blue card for foul play, meaning they are suspended from the game for two minutes. The standard red card penalty for serious fouls also applies.

During a weekend practice at the Mayon covered basketball court, the young players sprinted, kneed, dribbled and tossed the ball with the same intensity and enthusiasm of footballers preparing for a match.

Last Sunday, at the La Salle Green Hills covered court, the kids dribbled the ball and held their own against seasoned players of the Save Football Club, Darren Hutchison, English-Filipino player for the Philippine national team, and two visiting soccer players from Cameroon.

"We've got a team!" said a proud Mayo, Fil 37 former coach and fund coach for La Salle Green Hills and in College of St. Benilde. "They're not afraid to work hard. They fall, they're hurting, but they don't ask for a time out. They want to keep on playing."

Staff of winners

Lumigan, the two football coaches Hayon and head coach of RTU in Mandaluyong, observed: "They're street children. They're tough. They have the mind that they have to win."

It was in 2003 that Lumigan started coaching kids in Hayon. "I would throw a ball and everyone would come out of the cottages and start playing soccer. One day, visitors from Tulay threw kits came to the shelters and they played—they're street. Nothing. Hip-Hop or tambourine). They dispersed 60 pairs of shoes in 2005. I keep them in a locked cupboard. I prevent the shoes by hiding them so to practices before a real tournament," he said.

But in secrets about what the Philippine team will wear at the tournament in Melbourne.

Aswel, the official outfitter, delivered spending new jerseys, shoes and socks. Another kind soul donated balls for the team's practice sessions.

The other sponsors are Solar Sports TV, Asahi paint and pens, Shinjuku Travel Agency, SB Hotels, Vhaya shoe oil, QNC sports and tea, Gatorade, 2Go, Kids International Ministries, SILVET Japanese and Riders.

Those who wish to support the HWC Philippine team or its training and trips to Melbourne may log on to www.chingy-asay.com. For details on the team, log on to www.pinoysoccer.com, www.pilipinofa.org.)

"Sa Generics, walang duda sa QUALITY kapag cGMP!"

cGMP or Current Good Manufacturing Practice

- are quality standards imposed internationally by regulatory agencies to asssure that companies adhere to the sanitation, infection control, human resource, essential equipments and other quality standards to make the drugs and medicines manufactured are safe, efficacious and of good quality.

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DON K sa KALUBUGAN!
OK Ka!

LABANAN ANG KAHIRAPAN

Miners broke into padlocked mine, says exec

By Delmar Cunino
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DOGOD, BENGUET—THE abandoned diamond mine where 10 miners were trapped starting late last month was to become a model of a community-based mining site that big mining companies could adopt under the People's Small-Scale Mining Act (Republic Act No. 7076) of 1991.

But the scheme did not materialize because an attempt to renegotiate the terms of the joint-venture agreement with a group of small-scale miners failed, Benguet Corp. general manager Isabelo Pelle Jr. told the Inquirer yesterday.

"This prompted Benguet Corp. to cease and abandon its operations in the area. But we [Interlink] were guilty to show the people," he said.

Pelle also said the miners who entered the tunnel at the height of Typhoon "Nina" on Sept. 22 were on their own because they had no permit to work there.

Of the 10 trapped miners, only 1 is confined.

Leandro Kandeng, president of the Benguet Federation of Small-Scale Miners, said a successful renegotiation of terms could have prevented the tragedy because the company would have been compelled to implement safety measures.

Kandeng expressed support for Benguet Gov. Nestor Fong's call for an investigation of the incident to criminalize the liability if any of the small-scale miners, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and Benguet Corp.

Shift in strategy

Velez said Benguet Corp. became open to joint-venture agreements with small-scale miners after the company decided to stop its large-scale operations years ago.

The move represented a shift from big investment to a community-based, pseudo-Gine-sharing strategy that allowed small-scale miners to look for gold and ores from it, he said.

Velez said the company had existing agreements with 34 other small-scale miners' associations in its operations in Acupan.

But its two-year contract with the Spanish Empire Pocket Miners Association Inc. (Orpmai) was not renewed in 2006 because of differences in the sharing scheme, he said.

The original agreement required every miner who entered the tunnel to pay the company P5.0 each, and whatever they mined would be theirs.

Orpmai has around 3,000 members, Kandeng said.

60-40 sharing

Velez said the nonpartisanes logged down on an inspector over the sharing scheme.

He said the company offered 60-40 sharing, with the miners getting the bigger percentage of the production, but the latter refused.

"We also incur a lot of expenses for safety measures in the tunnels, as we believed that this proposal was proper," Pelle said.

Orpmai members, however, said they would be discharged considering the difficult and dangerous working conditions in the mines.

They said they were actually left to fend for themselves, because the company did not install the necessary equipment.

QUEENCARIBBEAN REALTY

Last of trapped miners rescued after 11 days

To page A2

In a report by The Associated Press, George Bayoneg, an MGB official who supervised the search and rescue operations, described Amayonan's survival as "miraculous."

Bayoneg said Amayonan's "limit life is unclear" and his physical fitness had contributed to his survival. "He may have prayed to God to let him live, according to change."

The rescuers helped move him about 1,200 feet (455 meters) along a horizontal shaft. They then gave him a little food and water so he could regain some strength to climb 300 feet on ladders along a vertical shaft and negotiate another 750 feet of a horizontal tunnel to get out on the side of a mountain.

Amayonan was immediately whisked away by family members worried about how the police would treat him right after coming out of the mine.

There was later news that promised to ease fears of misbehavior soon.

Facing the charges

Amayonan's father contacted the police on Friday to discuss his surrender, Morris said.

Morris quoted Amayonan as saying that he would face the charges filed against him.

He said at least 15 policemen were awaiting the miner.

According to records of the Benguet Regional Trial Court, two men identified as Joseph Tilmisen Amayonan and John Marygerill Amayonan, both of Bauko, Mountain Province, were charged with direct assault and frustrated homicide by a Tebo policeman in 2003.

The case is awaiting the decision of Judge Benigno Calacgan of the Benguet RTC.

Several other cases, including a robbery and theft charge, in Benguet and Baguio are purportedly attributed to Joseph Amayonan.

The Benguet court has an executed warrant for his arrest.

4 days only

MGB Cordillera director Herminia dela Cruz, said Amayonan's family was allowed to continue the search after rescue teams composed of local miners, Army divers and volunteers pulled out of the mine.

"We forged an agreement with the family [on Friday]. We gave them four days to search for him," Dela Cruz said, adding:

"In the memorandum of agreement, we gave them conditions. They should always observe safety regulations before entering the tunnel, and we limited the search team to 25 members in avoiding deaths."

Dela Cruz said a representative of the family informed the MGB on Friday afternoon that Amayonan had been found.

Jaimito said Amayonan was found in the 264 Side of the tunnel, about 270 feet before the tunnel's entrance.

"We returned to the spot where he and his brother Hario were working. Before the tunnel was flooded," Jaimito said.

Mario Amayonan was rescued on Oct. 1, together with Gilbert Bistoria and Rudy Bolong Jr.

"The water level inside the tunnel subsided [on Friday], and rescuers were able to enter the flooded [part of the] tunnel to get to where Joseph was staying," Bayoneg said. *With a report from Priscah Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 23 No. 282

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

Predatory budgeting

AS THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES wrestled with the bailout plan for Wall Street, "earmarkers" in the bailout bill passed by the US Senate became a heated topic for debate. Senators had put in all sorts of goodies for their constituencies, ranging from the $192 million for the Puerto Rican rum industry, to the $100 million for the Nascar racing car circuit, to the $200 million for the wooden arrow manufacturing industry. House members complained; but with the eyes of the world on them, they ended up passing the Senate version lock, stock, and thickly larded pork barrel.

EDITORIAL

The Americans experience suggests that members of Congress aren't beyond using even a global economic emergency to prove that all politics is local. And what holds true for American legislators holds even truer for their Filipino counterparts. The only difference might be that even when larding bills, Americans legislators have their local economies in mind while our homegrown legislators seem too lazy and subservient to think their insertions through.

Instead of insertions in the budget to pander to the businesses and industries of their constituencies, our legislators have thrown themselves into full-time to make insertions along two broad lines. First, the specific infrastructure projects which may redound to their benefit can be seen locally in the form of kickbacks, but certainly in the form of real estate improvements. Second, to provide for broad slush funds (lump sums for vaguely-defined purposes) the release of which still require the legislators' pandering to whatever is chief executive.

The advantage of both schemes is, although not precisely for the public good, they do avoid many legal minefields. When asked about the various insertions in this year's budget, former Cabinet officials Benjamin Diokno and Leonor Briones both pointed out that the millions, even billions, of pesos involved were, on their face, quite legal both in their method and application. This is an opinion not far removed from the jaded observations of senators and congressmen that all the fuss being made over their budgetary shenanigans is merely making mountains out of molehills.

The reason, however, that politicians are finding themselves on the defensive, as far as their budgetary practices are concerned, reveals the real issues at hand. First, that what may be small fries a congressional or presidential point of view involves significant and even shocking amounts in the eyes of a poverty-struck populations. Second, the public cannot find even the smallest mitigating factor in these budgetary goings-on which presume not the public interest but provide for horse-trading among elected officials and their bureaucratic counterparts.

And third, the first two underline how the legislature and the chief executive maintain a fundamentally predatory attitude toward the allocation and spending of our taxes; and how least concerned they are to being accountable and visionary when it comes to using those funds.

Finally, the way the whole process is slanted toward handing over giant flitfuls of cash to the presidency reveals just how acutely devoid of spine and constitutional self-awareness the nominally equal legislature is. We have long bureaucratized away at the importance of the power of the purse. That is, the principle that the national representatives of the electorate in Congress have the ultimate control over public spending.

Yet because of the flawed nature of our present Charter and the subservisiveness and rapidity of our representatives to fork bonuses, for all intents and purposes, it is our presidents—like the obscene monarchs of old—who possess the power to tax and spend.

The best that legislators seem capable of is the rather demeaning sight of the tortured Rep. Ronaldo Zamora calling for a budgetary diet—the slimming down to be done mainly by the chief executive. Neither he nor any other legislator seems interested to actually calling for real reform. Instead, Congress is poised to amend the Constitution, not to recover its lost power of the purse, but instead to protect the cozy status quo enjoyed by the ruling coalition.

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The 'done deal' is a dead deal

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaggayad A. Cruz

I RECENTLY RECEIVED A HANDWRITTEN letter from Mr. Antonio M. Colombino, "a brown Citizen who could hardly write," to be discretion himself, who asked me the following question:

"Are our Sec. Ermita and Gen. Esperon and their master Subic be treated in connection with the MOA?"

My first impulse was to dismiss the matter as it had been thoroughly discussed during the past several days with public opinion predominantly against the current MOA. I myself had earlier criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo in this column for her failure to widely condemn the agreement, which she finally did only after long hesitation, saying emphatically that she would not sign it even as proposed.

On second thought, however, I decided to reply to Mr. Colombino, for his information and all who for the benefit of others like him who may not appreciate the several contentions in which the offshoot of transmission unfolded and used.

As a crime, treason is defined and punished by Art. 114 of the Revised Penal Code as follows:

"Any Filipino citizen who levies war against the Philippines, or adheres to her enemies, giving them aid or comfort within the Philippines or elsewhere shall be punished by reclusion perpetua to death and shall pay a fine not to exceed 100,000 pesos.

"No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony at least of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession of the accused in open court."

Treason may also be committed by a conspiracy to commit treason. But that does not apply to so-called Filipinos despite doubts about their citizenship raised by their unabashed support for the MOA and the MOA.

The important thing is that the crime of treason may be committed only when a Filipino citizen is engaged in a war, which both the Philippines and the MILF vehemently deny while vehemently trying to kill each other with high-powered armaments of war.

And while many citizens, including Mr. Colombino and me, may willingly testify against the contents of the MOA they will probably argue that their questioned loyalty is a political question. For its part, the Supreme Court, wary for its political integrity, will double-talk its way into its arrogant pretense to intervene to accommodating political decisions.

It will also rule that the earnest fashion in Malacañang have adhered to the MOA and given it air and comfort cannot be resolved as evidence against them because it is covered by the executive privilege as interpreted in many other appointees by the Supreme Court.

Remember Sens Gen. Hermogenes Esperon testified on the day before the scheduled signing of the MOA that was fortunately prevented by the elected justices?

He confidently announced that "all contention," or the only contention of the MILF's chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal, was that the finished agreement was a "done deal."

Mohagher goes as the more general and acceptable definition of treason as "1. betrayal of trust or faith; treachery 2. violation of the allegiance owed to one's sovereign or state or the equal of one's country." But that definition cannot stand up in a court of law... not in our own courts of law, anyway—especially with our American jurisprudence in control the decisions of our highest tribunal as if we were still under the Stars Stripes forever.

If our current government could not have been finally rejected without the almost unanimous revulsion of the Filipino people to the abject surrender of their sovereignty to the petty pretensions of the MILF. The nationwide intensity that enforced it belonged to the obedient chaps whose continued extravagant livelihood depends on GMA's and being ensured from her supreme and highly suspect position to the so-called Prince of the People.

The MOA created a fanaticism beforehand with a separate status, governed under its own laws even against our Constitution, to be preferred in case of conflict with our democratic public, and with ability to enter into executional agreements as if it were a separate state. Even President Arroyo gingerly took her time before denouncing that illicit pact, obviously for fear of losing the goodwill of the MILF but not of her constituents.

But the MILF died as its dead as a doornail and should be consigned to the garbage can as a scandalous reminder of the manipulations—lies, as well, the shameful capitulation—of our erstwhile representatives to the demands of the MILF. The claim dead is already a dead deal that must remain in that merits instead of being allowed to rise again in a more hideous resurrection.

That is the reason I have dwelt at some length on this sordid MOA and taken the trouble of recalling how it has dishonored our Republic with the servile complicity of our own public officials. I have never seen a more pliable and unfeeling group of flatterers who would offer the integrity of our country on a silver platter to a group of bloodthirsty bandits professing to be statesmen.

I say, Mr. Colombino, that we are of the same age, but that is where our similarity ends. I admire and envy your remaining idealism that I regretfully lost long ago from seeing encounters that used to be one of the most successful in this low-lying island at the bottom of the barrel. It is only with reminded hope that I now look at our failed government, this depressing and corrupt government of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that has blighted and harassed our lives.

Stewardship

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A FARMER WHO sent his son to the river. When he got there, he saw the naked girls swimming. Upon seeing him, the girls said: "We're not getting out until you leave!"

The farmer's son said: "That's OK. I'm just here to feed this crocodile!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 21, 33-43), Jesus relates the parable about a landowner who sent his servants to get the produce of his vineyard from his tenants. When the servants were maltreated, he decided to send his own son thinking that they would respect him, but, the son himself was killed. This parable drives home the basic message of God's tremendous love for us, and our ingratitude and tardiness of heart.

* * *

Take note: There is a landowner and we are all tenants. This concept of stewardship makes us realize that there is someone greater than ourselves, and as long as we hold on to this, then we do not become proud or abusive. To day, the Lord again reminds us, especially those who are in positions of authority and responsibilities, that we are accountable, and that we are disposable. Forget your ambition of building an empire worthy wealth and power. No one stays on the top forever. No one leaves this world alive, and no one leaves this world in peace.

* * *

A good question for all of us to ask ourselves today is whether, because of greed, we not only have been ungrateful to the landowner, but have also been abusive to our fellow tenants. Have we hurt, have we bullied, have we manipulated our fellow beings? Have we made life miserable for them? Better to view these questions now to ourselves, rather than be convicted of these when we come face to face with our Creator.

* * *

Some years ago I saw a bullfrog half submerged in a seafloor. I learned that the expensive machine was being used in a dredging operation when its engine cooled out. The operator of the machine left the machine to look for help. When he returned, he was surprised to see that the bullfrog was still there. He thought that the bullfrog would have left the machine to look for food. But the bullfrog stayed there for days. It was only when the machine was repaired that the bullfrog left.

* * *

Lent is a time for us to be more aware of God's presence in our lives. Lent is a time for us to be more aware of God's presence in our lives. Lent is a time for us to be more aware of God's presence in our lives. Lent is a time for us to be more aware of God's presence in our lives.

* * *

Last week, I read an item about three men who committed suicide because of despair. Two of them hanged themselves because of financial problems, and one because of a broken heart. It is not for us to make judgment on them. God is honest surely knows and understands. However, the challenge for all of us is to extend and keep reminding ourselves that, as we go through our everyday trials and trials, that we are accountable to our God for our lives and for whatever happens to our lives. When we lose sight of God and the "Big Picture" we lose the fight.

* * *

October is the month of the rosary. Let us not forfeit this simple prayer which reminds us of our littleness and our dependence on God in union with the Blessed Mother. There are people who pray proud. If rather pray humble and simple.

* * *

Please don't forget too that October is the month for the students. St. Therese of The Child Jesus (Oct. 1) is the patroness of the missions. She reminds us to live our own mission wherever we are, and to be united in the world mission through our prayers and sacrifices. The fact that you and I are still alive means that we still have a mission in life. (May mayon ka pa, magbago ka na!)

* * *

"The more vehicle the builder rejected has become the cornerstone." We take courage in these words from the scriptures which remind us that persecution and rejection are part of our lives, but we hold on to our hope in God, who sees and knows everything. When there is no persecution or rejection in the past life, something is basically wrong. It simply means you are not taking a stand, and you're taking everything sitting down.

* * *

Speaking of taking a stand or sitting down, I am amazed at our 87-year-old Mama who joins the TV Mass every night with full participation, i.e., she stands at the beginning of the Mass, she down during the readings, kneels down during the consecration. Her love for the Eucharist is so inspiring, and her devotion to the Blessed Mother is so uplifting.

* * *

I am saying Mass at the Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez, Quezon City on Oct. 11, 7 p.m. for the Alumni Homecoming of Siena College. Quezon City Thirteenth will not only be a night of fun and remembering, but also a night for raising funds for the Siena College Quezon City Scholarship Fund to help the deserving students of their first night high school. For particulars, please call 711-3068 loc. 252.

* * *

Now available at leading bookstores is the book of Fr. Leonardo Mercado, SVD, entitled "Running with the Bison," about missionary spirituality as experienced with indigenous peoples and communities. For more information, please call 633-7294449, publicat@svd.org.ph.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Remind me, Oh Lord, when I am just a servant, and I am only passing by. Amen.

A libertarian decision; a decent jurist

MANDAMUS TO THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR DUE process decision in "Garrison vs. Garcia" (Sept. 23, 2008) | Honorable Ben Reclan F. Guerrero, a pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, from illegal incarceration.

Libertarian decision. On Sunday, May 27, 2007, about 9 p.m. (almost daylight, a white un-marked van (Toyota Hi-Ace) with tinted windows and his family were riding. The van, without showing any warrant or arrest, five unidentified "military-looking" men alighted and "forcibly boarded" the unarmed public into the van.

Mayor Jong suffered about 22, 2008 to CA Justice Ramon S. Villaruma Jr., the case was immediately set for hearing on Sept. 3, 2008. Before the hearing ended, the CA forcibly ordered Garrison family witness from detention "under temporary custody of the Court of Appeals" (CA) for three days (i.e., to commandable speed), the CA issued its libertarian decision.

Written by Justice Villaruma and concurred in by Justices Noel G. Tijam and Arturo D. Tayag, the decision is a concurring vote to due process ruling the Supreme Court's "unrelated violations [of Philippine rules of constitutional rights." The CA noted that Guerrero "did not stand a chance to defend or answer the serious accusations against him ... he was not notified or subpoenaed during the preliminary investigation ... had no opportunity to cross-examine his accusers against him."

In fact, despite the supposed filing of the insider charge 30 years ago in 1981, he never knew of its pendency until he was abruptly abducted, "physically" tortured, blindfolded and interrogated in an unknown safe house, accused by his abductors of being a communist and rebel leader, a "grave imposter."

The CA cited the "exercise had been longstanding in jail for more than a year under no indictment with no prima facie evidence to restrain the master charge against him and treated with public contradiction."

Justice Jennifer Lea Guadiz-Maglaya, ponente, agreed to the high court on April 15, 2003, the writ much complained restrained only on June 16, 2008, one day prior to the 70th birthday of the senior citizen. Had not her chances to retire on April 30, 2009 become due title she could no longer expect to have resolved.

Like a few in the judiciary, she could have continued on but her deep sense of honor, decency and compassion for others prompted her to resign a strong 10 key compulsory retirement. Law profession and inspirational in every sense, she exemplifies what I call the four "Cs" of all to whom today—integrity, integrity, intelligence and industry.

His only retirement means that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would be able to appoint seven new Supreme Court justices in 2009 due to the compulsory retirement next year of six others, namely: Ruben T. Reyes (Jan. 31, 2009), Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura (Feb. 17), Dante O. Tinga (Mar. 20), Consuelo Ynares-Santiago (Mar. 31), Leonardo A. Quisumbing (May 31) and Minita V. Chico-Nazario (Dec. 4), at the end of 2009, of the 15 justices including Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno. Only the GMA appointees Public Attorney Alicia Austria-Martinez, especially as the Judicial and Bar Council is now assembled themselves.

Joint or separate. Last Sunday, I wrote that if, by the end of the month, Congress is still stymied by the votes of what to do from Senate should insert and vote "jointly or separately," it may run out of time in revising the Constitution as a constituent assembly (Con-ass). If this happens, partisans of 2010 may look for other options, like unelected or emergency rule, to extend their reign.

Can Con-ass be done? Yes, but only legislators find the answer to this issue? Answer: by filing a "quo" case in the Supreme Court. If the Honorable Judges of Appointment with the SOLE who act botched, it could have been used on the first one.

I think that without the need for any change in the Constitution via the Con-ass or poll-purges, only pop up. They can vote in the guise of revising the economic provisions of the Charter to make them more lenient thereby, or abolishing the Senate leaving the current "bicameral" system of the House and calling it unicameral legislature or legislature, or reviewing the federalism bogey, or of any physique a full discussion on the "joint or separate" issue. Once a favorable "joint" ruling is secured, **words the push amendatory Con-ass** rule all persons.

Comments are welcome at chrlpaul@yahoo.com/ lawyer@hotmail.com

Green Ramos

AT LARGE

ROSA DIMAYUG-ORTEGA

build a better Philippines," and Brother Ian ords, whose ambassadors for the school's evolution and love for the students are inheritors. Y el. ready had confirmed in our week," he added, noting how they once were "the only Filipino faculty" on campus in a mostly Anglo-Catholic environment, **but also becoming responsible students, with emphasis on their stewardship of the earth's resources and thanks of the nation's future.**

Brother Ian Ramos is the youngest son of approximately 1,000 students in the high school department, about 300 or roughly 10 percent are scholars from public high schools in the immediate area of the Novo Ulang and inland, the scholarships cover tuition but not other allowances for food, uniforms and books.

This is clearly one part of an overall plan to make De La Salle more accessible and accept able to the surrounding communities, since it presently charges nearly P200,000 per year, other fees than nearby schools. Brother Ian with said his current obsessions is to make the campus accessible to public transport, given its rather isolated location.

ALTHOUGH we were all generally impressed with both the vision enunciated by Brother Ian with, and the college's facilities and amenities, Odette was still concerned about the need to deepen the students' environmental awareness, to instill in them a genuine sense of responsibility for and love, nothing over the earth's resources from the beginning of the students' formal education.

Toward this end, the "Ramos Woods," with the help of instructors in other disciplines, is to be included in a planned memorandum of understanding, should go a long way toward spotting and inspiring in every student the responsibility to be a steward of the environment.

The giant

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE
Patricia Evangelista

The Palin charade

WORLD VIEW

YASMIN YUSOF

The Palin charade

WORLD VIEW

YASMIN YUSOF

Please send feedback to:
jpervaliente@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

Lessons from US financial crisis

By Edwin L. Beja Jr.

EVERYONE IS FOLlowing what US authorities are doing to resolve their financial mess. No doubt, the financial crisis is the most serious financial disturbance in the United States since the Great Depression.

It may turn out to be the most serious economic disturbance in its history. But what I wish to do is to focus on how the financial mess came about.

Back to the future

The Great Depression is a useful starting point. The financial collapse of the 1930s led to a rethinking about financial markets. There was a decision that never again would the United States allow another financial collapse. The Glass-Steagall act of 1933 and similar legislations were designed to discipline the financial markets through the segmentation of commercial and investment activities in the financial system as a whole was made to promote production, increase wages, create jobs, reduce poverty, etc. This policy stance held for a while from the late 1940s to the 1960s.

The economic context in the 1970s heralded those "managed capitalists." Recall the breakdown of the fixed exchange rate regime, two oil price shocks, wayward government deficits, interest rate follies, stagflation, global economic recession and the debt crisis.

Right-wing economics

That period saw the counter-ground of right-wing economics and right-wing politics to extol the virtues of the unregulated markets and despised any form of government intervention. Markets always nourished business interests, rational, self-reproducing and self-regulating. Serious adjustments were therefore made on monetarism evolved in the early 2000 economy that were found wanting with respect to unemployment.

It is important to see that the adjustments since the 1970s were increasingly being focused on the "secondary problems" of markets, meaning market operations through the use of prices. The "primary problems" of true facts—structures and institutions needed for market development, were—were not aside.

It was enough to assume that deregulation and liberalization generated a demand for sound structures and institutions. It was enough to diversify risk and market operations that guaranteed high profits.

In the context of the US financial crisis, US authorities and market players basically overlooked the integrity of their financial systems. After all, the United States had the most advanced financial markets. The unimaginable collapse before us financial systems created an appearance of the impossibility of failure. The Great Depression was seen as an isolated incident.

How to build a crisis

In the late 1990s, the United States ended the all-system regulation of its financial markets with the repeal of, among others, the Glass-Steagall act. Into before the 1980s, derivatives and most complex financial instruments were not regulated at all in other words, all balance sheet transactions.

Advances in computing, information processing, and financial know-how drove the expansion and the sophistication of US financial markets. They became bigger, more complex, more confident, more aggressive and more powerful than before.

Let me note some implications at this point. The financial crisis mobilized the US financial system to threaten a financial collapse, even an economic crisis. Thus, this crisis showed that unregulated financial markets are not desirable. And do not promote long-term benefits even in the most advanced economy like the economies with less advanced financial systems, there is indeed an embedded wisdom to a prudent money approach to deregulation and liberalization.

Keynes, Marx

The US financial crisis reminds us to once again look at structures, institutions and production, bring in dimensions like uncertainty and economic risks (John Maynard Keynes) and understand how class interactions have impressed effects on economic performances and people's lives.

"Fictitious commodities" (Karl Polanyi) do not produce the land, the jobs, the shelters, the houses, etc., that people need. "Fictitious capital" (Karl Marx) does not produce the "real commodities" unless finance is productive in the exactly that because finance demands to be fine, to the whatever it desires, and to go wherever it wishes.

Part of the oscillations to these lines to make finance value was in the economy as it actually supports production.

The transformations in the US financial system point to the origin of the financial mess. Recall that in commercial banking, banks extended loans to homeholds and businesses. If borrowers defaulted on loans, banks suffered. In short, there were strong incentives to ensure that good loans were made.

Originate, distribute

What happened in the 1990s was that the United States shifted from conventional banking to the so-called "originate-and-distribute" system. Banks issued loans as before, but, in the new system, banks had others or themselves (if they had enough capitalization) package loans into sophisticated financial products called "mortgage-backed securities" or "collateralized debt obligations," which were then sold to investment banks, to hedge funds, to insurance companies, etc.

Notice that the cause of loans issued isn't in the holders of loans. In short, there was no strong incentive to make good loans. With no strong regulations or monitors, transactions continued, expanded, accelerated and went out of hand.

Rating agencies

There was a perverse incentive to create more securities, sell them off in the capital markets, get bigger fees, and bonuses, and then make the process all over again. Why should a market stop two weeks above defaults when they get their big fees and bonuses already? And "Big Brother" was not watching anyway.

The rating agencies contributed to the whole mess. Again, the business of rating agencies is rating securities and related financial instruments and that is fundamentally linked to the volume of selling and underwriting of financial products.

Insurance derivatives

Put simply, those who sold the debt securities, collateralized debt obligations, insurance derivatives, and so on got rating agencies to rate their financial products. The perverse incentive was to get these financial products very high ratings to earn more.

Meanwhile, sustained capital flows provided easy finance that, in turn, supported the expansion of the US financial markets. Aggregate factors like the current account deficits that required the United States to "borrow" ($2 billion each day) from the rest of the world, a historic low US savings, and an expansive US one against serve need to be considered to see the macroeconomic health.

But do not discount the fact that capital flows into the United States were also promoted because economic opportunities elsewhere existed. Some capital surpluses and they did not know what to do with them beyond setting aside some precautionary amounts as reserves against financial attacks.

And do not discount the fact that the United States offered high returns on the capital.

Shareholders, the risks remained that the US financial markets were very strong because of their high profitability.

Nonrecourse debt

As competition intensified, more loans were extended to people who did not have the capacity to pay loans. Because housing loans were "nonrecourse debts," there was a big problem right from the start.

It is easy to understand why banks used to be hurried by collateral. In the case of the US subprime lending, the collateral was the house. More recourse debt means that, in case of default, the recovery is limited to the mortgaged property. The rest of the borrower's assets are not covered by the mortgage.

In short, it is possible for the borrowers to default on the mortgage when really wrong. Indeed, since the housing bubble burst in 2007, more and more people walked away. There was a pressure to continue to make good on loans. In the meantime, housing values depreciated and US average income fell by $2,000 (from its 1999 level).

Nobody wanted to raise warnings. Market players discounted the signs, too. There was a strong incentive that more money was made as financial products became riskier.

Even if a lot of bad financial products were sent out, market players still got their big fees and bonuses. Companies were made huge profits. If financial markets had a "conscience," market players got their money anyway. Why bother?

Financial casino

Besides, insurance was available against defaults, which are called "credit default swaps" or insurance derivatives. Simply, it's much as to someone, I then purchased insurance on that loan in case losses in case the loan went bad. Analysts pointed out that insurance derivatives market exploded from $5 trillion early in the 21st century to $45 trillion in 2006. 2007, or 10 times the size of all US corporate debt; it supposed a "financial casino" to insurance derivatives.

It is now known that the problems in the US financial system was spread to other parts of the world. European and Asian banks and financial institutions experienced huge losses because they were unable to measure exposures to, say, US housing loans extended under nonrecourse terms.

As home values fell—and expected to still fall in the medium term—the prospects of recovery became dim. With companies caught in problematic financial products, the crisis in the United States was sent to infect others, including some banks and financial institutions in the Philippines.

Huge cost

One way to get an idea of the impact of a financial crisis is to look at past studies. In my research on the impact of the Asian crisis, I found that the cost in the Philippines at $15 for each Filipino as of 2000. In short, the cost remains controversial.

Other economies in Asia faced bigger costs. Past studies also indicate that financial crises always produces bigger costs. For example, the Japanese housing bubble that exploded in the early 1990s ushered in a period of economic dislocations, which Japan has yet to recover from.

Philippine authorities must therefore know the full extent of the damage of Philippine banks and financial institutions to the US financial mess. The bigger the money that got tied up in the US financial mess, the stronger the impact on the Philippines.

Who to blame

It is now understood that market players exploited the performance of financial markets to create an illusion of an unstoppable expansion and huge profits. While it is difficult to predict when a crisis explodes, quantitative techniques make it possible to model the probability of a crisis event, as Jason Furman and Joseph Stiglitz demonstrate in their study of the 1997 Asian crisis. It is therefore unreasonable that market players did not see a looming problem.

Analysts argued that US authorities should have at least signaled that current growth rates in housing prices and housing demand were not healthy. Recall that a similar assessment was presented after Alan Greenspan announced in December 1996 that the 1990s stock market boom exhibited "irrational exuberance."

If US authorities wanted to act to deal with a potential problem, they did so with binding threats of intervention and regulation. But the fact is that, in the 2000s, the US Federal Reserve did not refuse to intervene, it also did not acknowledge a housing bubble. It even went on to pursue low monetary policy and to remove the remaining safeguards against speculative activities, including that on housing mortgages.

In a way, the Fed unprecedented financial markets. Such market players were emboldened because the US government made implicit promises that it would not let some financial institutions fail. Moreover, in case of a crisis, market players got their money anyway. Why bother?

Wanted bailout

The US financial mess needs a cleanup. Bailouts are definitely expensive. Like it or not, US taxpayers are going to assume the burden when some financial products are nationalized. Those who profited from irresponsible actions are not going to take any burden. There is no socialization of profits.

A bailout is needed. But Thomas Donaldson, Freddie Mac, AIG, Lehman Brothers, Washington Mutual, and others in some need to be bailed out. The US financial system needs a bailout because the alternative scenario of a financial collapse is worse in terms of its impact on the US economy. We could recession and global scarcity.

Some analysts argue that $700 billion is the right amount. Others disagree. A $1 trillion bailout is small compared with an estimated $11 trillion of total financial products in a $400 trillion financial system collapse.

The important issue is what kind of authorities are serious in fighting the good cause and in taking actions in good faith to avoid the greater costs/losses, in the event of a financial collapse, these will be no "soft landing" for everyone.

After bailout

US authorities must learn from this experience. Because of the financial mess, those who played their money in, say pension funds, for a good objective will not be able to look forward to a secure retirement. Many people will lose incomes, jobs and houses as in the financial mess goes through the US economy.

Because it is not well understood how the money will be recovered, the bailout will create a huge hole in the financial system, even if it saves the financial markets. The bailout will provide the taxpayers for a long time, even as US authorities purge the toxic financial products.

Clearly, the US financial mess will require quick and solid resolution. After that, there will be serious investigation to find culprits. Finally, to reassure the financial regulatory institutions, to pull the financial system out from by setup that encourages financial centers and, more importantly, to make finance ever again serve the people.

Whither Philippines?

There is a tendency in the Philippines to adopt the US as the benchmark in dealing with their financial markets. The tendency is to pattern the Philippine financial system on the US financial system. Because of that, there is a saying "the Philippines is—there's the archipelago and Illinois of the US (financial system)."

Does the Philippine system exhibit symptoms of a financial crisis?

Charlie Habib wrote: "Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. testified the capitalizes of the BSP to setting up an integrated regulatory body that will consolidate the functions of [Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas], insurance commission, and Securities and Exchange Commission. See other were surprised by the statement, given the BSP's long-standing resistance in the very idea of such integration. The seemingly change of heart may be indicative of the recognition of the growing complexity of the financial markets, and the regulators gaps that could occur—and have in fact occurred (in my opinion)—as a result of such complexity."

Ordinary Filipino

It is therefore imperative in course the soundness of the Philippine financial system, to make it resilient against financial crises, to ensure that financial products sold in the country or those bought elsewhere are safe, to check that market players are not engaging in financial malpractices or preying on ordinary Filipinos or holding over your else in to some non-viable financial products. There is also a need to avoid situations where tax authorities are unable to find \$ billion dollars those who seized irresponsibly and to impose the burden on those who acted carelessly but, more importantly, to discipline finance and make it again work for us and support our economy so that we have work as a people.

Furthermore, people who believe in regulation should not the regulatory agencies and be given ample money to pursue and to implement their mandates. It is no metaphor to have financial regulatory agencies or an emergency financial regulatory body when the people placed there do not believe in regulation or think that any regulation is bad or believe that the removal of regulations is their mandate.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

E-mail: [illegible]
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John Jon Bacalayel
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NPA loses 'mother of all mothers'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

LOLA EMERGED FROM THE tent, complete with maroon-ribboned cheeks, lips in strong pink and a sky-blue cloaker to match the shirt. Although everyone was busy for the big day, they never failed to notice Lola whose flamboyance, many would say, was so contagious even to the least demanding times.

That day, Lola was in officiate in a wedding in a hinterland village of Compostela Valley. And when much of the attention was showered at the bride and the groom, Lola effortlessly took a generous part of it from the indigenous peoples, the farmers and the visitors who had traveled far to witness and celebrate the union.

Pleading for outsiders to see was how Lola was getting all the fuss, but it was tender-candidable, really, for someone who finished the world's admiration (and criticisms) when Lola married a young man in an elaborate and controversial ceremony three years ago.

Lola is Roberta Monte Jr. or for Richard, a gay communist fighter who, for more than 10 years, surrendered himself to the embrace of a "people's revolutions." He was one of the top leaders of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao who took up the fight of peasants and indigenous peoples against oppressive forces.

Mourners from mountains

And when he passed away recently, a litany of mourners from the entire region swelled into Davao City as they turned it to unwell drove a bit of heart toward the revolutionary movement.

On board trucks and boasting gallium thickpoints, hundreds of people were down the hills of Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental to say goodbye to Val. He was buried on Sept. 30.

Val, 57, died from blood infection that resulted to kidney failure, a day after he was finally confined in a city hospital for more than 14 hours after his comrades brought him on a multi-traveller down the mountains of Compostela Valley. It was a week after his health deteriorated rapidly.

Hale del Mundo, spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines in Southern Mindanao, said Val, on the very end, chose to stay at their base.

"He did not mind the intermittent fever he was suffering from and insisted told the commander not to run over him because he was just fine. After to reach something, he finally allowed himself to be brought to a hospital in Davao," Del Mundo said.

Before his death, Del Mundo said, Val was even making every to the hospital more happy and made a list of those who would be invited to his wake, "playfully reminding us that even in his death, there are people to organize and mobilize."

Active

Val's involvement as an activist and a guerrilla started when he was an active worker of the Catholic Church, even long before the decree Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972. During the First Quarter Storm, he joined the Kabataang Makabayan (Nationalist Youth), a mass organization working among students.

He was detained for more than a year in the now-defunct Philippine Constabulary Barracks in Tagum City. After his release, he went back to Davao City and classified a Left-wing political movement. From Tagum to Davao against martial law fundraising.

During martial law, Val became the chair of the Democratic Council for Justice and Peace (DCJP) and later joined the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy. He also became a member of the Friends of the Friendless from Debt Coalition in the early 2000s and head of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Southern Mindanao from 1998 to 1998.

"Val was the 'darling' of the press," washing from one corner to another, Antonio Zumeta, a veteran journalist, said Val gained the respect of the media during his time for being "sociable and sincere in what he's saying."

"I could remember him as someone very personable and sincere. He was very articulate and had a good relationship with the media because he was never arrogant, and had good answers to every question," Zumeta said.

Joining the NPA

His friends recall that Val's decision to join the NPA became a topic for discussion among them.

Nick David, one of his closest friends, said he had a debate with Val over his joining the underground movement because of Val's age. On that time, Val was 47, fresh from breaking Bayan-3. "He was already too old to join the movement," David said.

But then when David visited Val in the mountains, he realized how Val loved the people and how he was willing to sacrifice to be with them.

"Val loved the farmers so much. During disasters, he would carefully pick crumbs because in producing rice grains, farmers have to go through a difficult experience," he said.

Journalist Carlos Conde, another friend of Val's, wrote in his blog, "To be sure, many would scoff at Val's decision to become an NPA and the things he stood for, dismissing this as stupidity, a misdirected commitment in an ideology long discredited."

"But Val, during the times when we interacted while he was already with the NPA, would often impress on me that this 'dead ideology' is far from dismissed in the poor nations on where peasants are locked in a never-ending struggle with their landlords. In areas, for instance, a real agrarian revolution was taking place, supplanting the bogus one-way implementation by the government," Conde added.

Rural reach

In his journal, Val expressed that his decision to join the armed revolution came after he desired to expand his reach to the people in the rural areas.

"At the height of my activism, I decided to join the NPA. My decision elicited various reactions from the people close to me. Some were happy, some were skeptical. This did not affect my decision," he wrote.

"It was a product of a long and painful struggle against selfishness, intellectualism and pride. I gave up a considerable lifestyle, left my family and relatives and reached close friends. It was the hardest yet the best decision in the I've made in my life," he added.

Jaime Aabang, a "formal" leader from Bonbon town in Davao Oriental, said Val would always be remembered as the "mother of all mothers."

"Lola Conchi is to his real children. The grandmother of the formal people — the force of the oppressed," Aabang said.

NEVER a gloomy day—even in the midst of revolution—with "Ka" Richard or Roberto Monte Jr., according to friends and comrades. This photo was taken during a rampage in December 2007.

THOUSANDS of farmers from Southern Mindanao bid goodbye to "Ka" Richard as he was laid to rest Sept. 30 in the Forest Lake Memorial Park in Davao City.

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC) through the ACCREDITATION and BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEES, invites all interested suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

Item	Qty	Unit	Material Description
1	1	unit	20 tandm, model 1998, 2004 DR, Shuttle bus
2	1	unit	Backhoe, Isuzu, 4HE1, 33 HP, 3 Cylinders, with 0.37 cu. M bucket, brakes and units Double blade

Eligibility and bid forms may be secured at the INEC Boardwalk from October 9-10, 2008 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the INEC cashier.

In accepting the invitation, the bidders shall deemed to have (a) accepted the criteria and evaluation methodology of the bids and (b) waived any right to seek any restraining order, injunction, or prohibition to prevent, restrain or prejudice INEC in the conduct of the bidding, negotiation, award, and implementation.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO R. AGLIAM, PEE
BAC Chairman

EDWIN P. PASCUA, PEE
Accreditation Com.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) RENATO S. GALINATO, PEE
Officer-in-Charge

Across the NATION

UN sends 40 tons of biscuits to Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—REPORTS about the increasing number of children dying of hunger in refugee camps in conflict areas in Mindanao has prompted the United Nation's World Food Program (WFP) to ship in about 40 tons of high-energy and high-nutrition biscuits.

Stephen Anderson, WFP country director and representative to the Philippines, yesterday said the [illegible] would soon be offloaded in three months at the Davao International Airport reading [illegible].

It would be sent to conflict-affected areas for delivery to various evacuation centers this week, he said.

Anderson said the biscuits came as a response to the request of the Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare and Development for more food amid the growing nutritional needs of displaced families in some areas of Central Mindanao, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Lanao del Norte in Northern Mindanao.

A GRANDMOTHER cradles a child in an evacuation center in North Cotabato where evacuees have been living up to receive food assistance. [illegible]

"They are proven to be effective as a food supplement but of course it doesn't substitute regular food. It is good for 2 weeks period kids," he said adding that the biscuits have significant amounts of calories, calcium, magnesium, vitamins A, B, C and E, and minerals that could help them combat threat of malnutrition.

Earlier, Dr. Stella Sison, provincial health officer of Maguindanao in Liguasan Marsh, reported that from August to September, four children and five adults had died in an evacuation center there due to hunger and disease.

Mindanao is one of the areas affected by the violence when Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels launched attacks in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Zamboanga and Basilan [illegible], since August.

"Almost all the evacuees are suffering from diseases, especially of acute diarrhea, especially children, are malnourished, watery [illegible]," Orense said.

"The evacuees need to eat every day and since their health is deteriorating, they need more medicines and proper nourishment," Orense said.

The UNWFP has donated these [illegible] to the evacuees were being cooked as ground zero of, said Social Welfare Undersecretary Alicia Bala in Cagayan de Oro City in an interview late last month.

"Sometimes we the reports overwhelm that children are getting hungry for them to be able to get resources from donors, "Bala said.

"We want to assure that the DSWD, the LGUs, and the national donors coordinating council are monitoring the needs of the evacuees, especially the most vulnerable, are properly attended to," she added.

Anderson said the WFP was aware of the concern on related illnesses produced with products.

He said the biscuits that the delivery were manufactured in Turkey using fortified milk produced in the United States.

Anderson said his agency has taken measures to make a report of an incident, in which a WFP truck was robbed of 20 sacks rice by an unidentified armed group near Maguindanao.

He said the WFP would not stop their organization from helping the distressed people.

He expressed that DSWP has delivered 2,200 metric tons of commodities by 67,000 families. Bronze Santos, Julie Alcaide and Mc. Cecille Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao

Ang Kapatiran targets 2010 posts in 2010

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—UNFAZED BY its dismal showing in the last elections, the ruling Kapatiran Alliance for the Common Good party will be targeting at least 20 [illegible] in the 2010 national and local elections.

The group, which advocates a new God-centered politics, launched its campaign here on Wednesday.

"The people's need for a credible alternative to the dominant brand of politics remains," Kapatiran Founder Wesly Pacheco told the [illegible] at the celebration of the national convention of the Council of the Laity of the Philippines.

Pacheco said their campaign would focus on the grassroots and lower level positions.

Party president Eric Manalang said they would field [illegible] candidates in the elections and would support [illegible] of their elective office.

"2010 to 2020 is our call for new politics," said Manalang.

The party will focus its campaign in the 200 towns and cities with the biggest percentage of young voters.

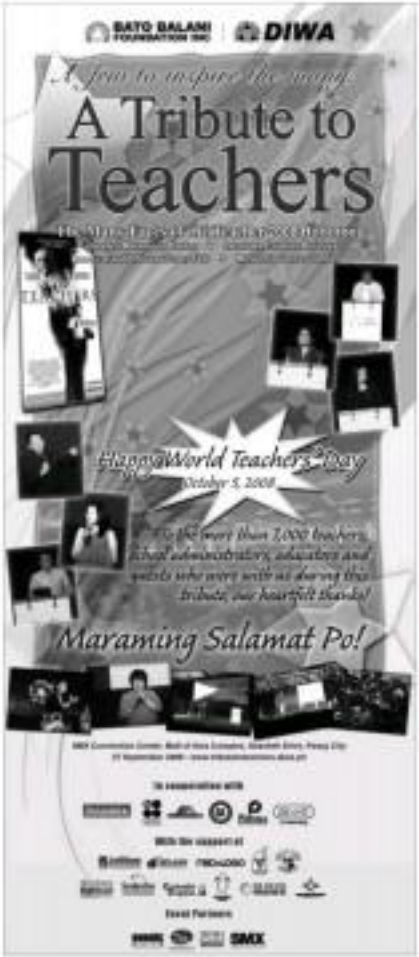
Pacheco said the party might field candidates for President and for the Senate and House as long as the candidate adheres to the principles and platforms of governance of the party.

Kapatiran fielded 30 candidates in last year's elections, including three for senator and a vice gubernatorial candidate. But only John Carlo de los Reyes won, finishing second to councilor of Olongapo City.

Pacheco said they were encouraged, not discouraged by their performance.

"We may not have won many seats but we got more votes than we expected since long as [illegible] are on a viable alternative," he said.

The party's three senatorial candidates, Abelardo Boquiren, Jesse Zoilano Bautista and Adriano Ramos, did not come near the winning cards but they each got an average of 750,000 votes.



Catholic laity throws support to Panlilio's fight for integrity

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

REMINISCE. Gov. Ed Panlilio is welcomed by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo as he signs [illegible] hundreds of participants during the Laity Week in Pooky Hilltop Radio City. [illegible]

ILOILO CITY—THE national organization of the Catholic laity has thrown its support behind Pampanga Gov. Eddie "Ed" Panlilio who is facing a recall campaign in mid-June from officials.

In the statement issued Oct. 3 at the culmination of a three-day national convention of the Council of the Laity of the Philippines here, the national organization of Catholic lay people said they were supporting Panlilio's campaign to "promote integrity and honesty in the government."

The statement was issued as Catholic Church leaders rallied on the laity to be at the forefront of the fight against graft and corruption and for good governance [illegible] before the next national elections.

"We are backing Panlilio in his fight for good governance and his battle against the purported recall, which will bring to naught his noble and difficult work against graft and corruption," the group said in the statement.

Resolutions

The resolution was approved by around 500 delegates representing the dioceses of the country.

Panlilio, who is on leave from his duties as governor, was one of the speakers during the opening of the convention last Monday. He was no longer around when the resolution was passed, according to convention secretariat assistant Joseph Avalos.

He was the gubernatorial candidate of a [illegible] coalition against powerful political figures, including former provincial board members Lilia Pineda and then incumbent Gov. Mark Lapid in the 2007 elections on a platform calling for cultural change, good governance and against [illegible] politics.

But he is facing a recall bid initiated by a nongovernment organization led by a former election campaigner of Pineda.

Citing lots of confidence in the governor's leadership, the group chose to gather the signatures of at least 100,000 registered voters in the province. The number is more than 10 percent of the 977,000 registered voters of Pampanga, which is required in a recall election.

Church leaders have called on lay people to be more active in fighting graft and corruption.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo who replaced as the country's most [illegible] graft and corruption remains one of the most pressing problems of the country.

"The conversation is very practical because it is a good preparation for the forthcoming national elections," Lagdameo told the bayanan.

"The Church encourages the rigorous participation of the laity in governance not only in the Church but also of society. The laity must be at the forefront in solving our social problems," the prelate said.

Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes, chair of the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on the Laity, said lay people can help counteract it sees endemic corruption.

"What we need people can only exhort them to do it and to provide spiritual formation, but they should be at the forefront," Reyes said in a separate interview.

He said that based on reports and from accounts of lay people, graft and corruption is the greatest problem in governance.

"The challenge to all government officials in all levels of government is to live the faith," said Reyes.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ TAGUIG CITY

5 dead in several mishaps

AT LEAST five persons, including an infant and a soldier, were killed in separate mishaps in Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental last week, police said Friday.

A Corporal Dantalion was killed Thursday when a motorcycle he [illegible] on a truck while negotiating a curve [illegible] Monkayo, Compostela Valley, police said.

In Mati City in Davao Oriental, four persons, including an infant, were killed while two others were injured when a van loaded with water bottles plunged into a ravine on Wednesday.

Truck helper Rolando Magcas of Barangay Dahican, driver Brian Mira and Joylean Montes and her son Ruel, died when the truck they were riding in [illegible] the side of the road and fell into a 200-meter ravine.

The injured—Jenny Montes, Joylean's husband Elvie Pedro, another truck helper—were [illegible] treated at the hospital.

Frinston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

NPA camp discovered

POLICE on Thursday said they have discovered three New People's Army (NPA) camps in the forest lands of the shared town of Pantukan in Compostela Valley on Wednesday.

The three camps were discovered when troops found it in the middle of the jungles in Sitio Radio Busco in Barangay Araibo around 9 p.m., said Senior Supt. Ronald dela Rosa, Compostela Valley police director.

Frinston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

■ DAVAO DEL SUR

Man hunted for abduction

POLICE have launched a manhunt against a 28-year-old man from Barangay Bayabas here for allegedly abducting a 13-year-old girl on Friday.

Police said the family of the girl [illegible] them that the suspect, Renante Delita, had been courting the girl before her abduction.

On Friday, police said the suspect, who [illegible] near the girl's house, apparently succeeded and took her to a still unknown location. "We are now using the suspect's car to locate the girl," he said.

Ronnie Chong, Inquirer Mindanao

■ DINALUPIHAN, BATAAN

American found dead

AN AMERICAN who was reported missing in Sept. 14 was found dead in a mountainous area in Barangay San Pablo here on Friday.

Sup. Dennis Ortanez, commander, [illegible] of the Bataan police, said John Patterson, 70, a native of Florida, was [illegible] when found on Sept. 14 but failed to return to his home in Sitio Cubulao in nearby Olongapo City.

Police said Ortanez, whose body was found at 10:20 a.m. Friday, could have slipped and died in the mountains while [illegible].

On Thursday, police found a woman's decomposing body in a shallow well in Barangay Bangal here. The woman was described as [illegible] tall and was wearing a pair of blue jogging pants and white shirt. Her relatives were taken to the Tanpoi Funeral Home in the town.

Greg Relosendez, Inquirer Central Luzon

Market jitters linger

By [illegible] A.I.

Asian economic powerhouse China said its government "has been closely following the developments of the US financial crisis and its impact," the People's Bank of China spokesperson was quoted as saying by state media.

While hailing the adoption of the US rescue plan, it also "hoped that it would be implemented as soon as possible and achieve positive results," the central bank spokesperson said.

"China and the United States of America share common interests in establishing a stable financial market," he said.

The US-born financial crisis, which has led some EU nations to devise their own bailout packages for ailing banks and financial groups, was to be the subject of an emergency meeting today in Paris of the leaders of Europe's four biggest economies—Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

Markets greeted on passage of the US bailout, as investors' attention turned to signs of a gathering recession.

Stocks, which had been higher before the vote, dropped, with the S&P 500 index closing at its lowest level in almost two years. The dollar was also in reverse.

"This probably means a bit too late. If this had been done earlier, it probably would have had a much bigger impact to restoring confidence," said Asian Pivotal, economist at BNP Paribas in New York.

Chief lobbyist

US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who had been the administration's chief lobbyist for the plan, said he would move quickly to buy up distressed assets from banks.

"We have shown the world that the United States of America will stabilize our financial markets and maintain a leading role in the global economy," Bush said in a short statement delivered before cameras outside the White House.

Analysts cautioned it was still premature to declare the US crisis would soon be subdued.

"There are more questions than answers out there still," said David Kelly, chief market strategist of JP Morgan Asset Management. "Even if the banks do participate, how willing will they be to make new loans into the economy if they can get rid of the bad ones?"

The US government has run up a bill of $1 trillion in rescue efforts as it moved to stabilize its banks, including the rescues of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. That cost is equal to over 7 percent of the world's largest economy.

The House had shocked world markets on Monday by rejecting a previous deal. With elections a month away, lawmakers from both parties were wary of voting for[illegible] to asking taxpayers to pay for Wall Street's mistakes.

Holding up

Earlier on Friday, the United States reported its biggest monthly job loss in 5-1/2 years, more evidence of an approaching recession. Data showed the US services sector was holding up.

Lawmakers said that the combination of escalating stocks, which pulled down market-linked pension plans, and a credit freeze which had losses deep into the day-to-day economy, had changed the political calculations since Monday.

Speaker after speaker from both parties on the House floor said that rejecting the bailout a second time could have devastating consequences for an already slowing US economy.

"While the focus has been on the Dow Jones and Wall Street, we are addressing the real pain felt by Mr. and Mrs. Jones on Main Street," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat.

No 'blank check'

Top House Republican John Boehner said that the version of the bailout passed by the House was superior to the original version requested by the Bush administration, which some critics described as a "blank check."

"The passage of this flawed but necessary bill is not cause for celebration," he said, adding that Congress had allowed scores of the Senate industry to "run amok."

The credit crisis and its threat to the economy have dominated the US presidential election. Both Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama supported the bailout and welcomed its passage.

"I'm glad to see we've finally got this thing dealt with," Obama said while campaigning in Pennsylvania. "The fix, I think is that the administration was the authority wisely."

McCain said it was "an outrage" that the crisis had reached the point of demanding an emergency response from lawmakers.

"The economy is still hurting. Americans are hurting," he said in remarks. "Further action is needed and it shouldn't take a crisis to get the country to act."

California shut out

Meanwhile, the nation's worst property slump started it could need to fall back Federal loans because it had been shut out of credit markets. California, with an economy on par with Spain's, continued it could run out of cash by the end of the month, bringing services like schools to a grinding halt.

A collapse in the US housing market and resulting bad mortgages have shattered confidence in the financial sector, with banks across the United States and Europe needing support from governments to contain the crisis this week.

Interbank lending and credit to businesses and private individuals has all but seized up. General banks have injected billions of dollars in payments since Sept. of bank.

The US Senate passed a revised version of the bailout package 74-25 on Wednesday, including investments on extending bank deposit insurance and expired tax breaks in order to get more Republicans behind the legislation.

The amended version of the plan is laced with $150 billion in tax breaks to ease volatility[illegible] from both the Democratic and the Republican parties to get on board.

The bailout gives the US Treasury power to buy up toxic mortgage debt which has been choking the financial industry and would create a $700-bil-

NERVOUS traders watch House of Representatives vote on the $700-billion bailout package from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday. AFP

lion federal program to buy bad assets from banks and other financial firms.

The Senate raised the ceiling on federal insurance for bank deposits from $100,000 to $250,000, and added up to $150 billion to tax break concessions for middle-class families and businesses.

They also retained limits on "golden parachute" payments to executives of distressed Wall Street companies. Reuters, AFP

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FROM ASIONG SALONGA TO 'PANSIT LUGLOG'

Artist remembers the icons and scents of his Tondo childhood

By Tina S. Santos

MANY OF HIS WORKS evoke memories of his childhood, including scenes from what used to be for him, "the most dangerous street in Manila"—featuring the facade of dilapidated houses and its less fortunate residents.

While these pictures may not entirely be pleasant to other people, being vivid representations of the world of poverty and misery, renowned painter Fernando Sena believed that "nonetheless, it's these ugly things that one can use beautiful things."

More importantly, Sena said painting subjects such as these not only shaped his consciousness but also serve as a genuine reflection of his background.

Born on a Macabebenan and an Ilocana mother, the third-year-old Sena grew up in Masangkay Street, a labyrinth of alleys connecting the infamous mestiz side of Tondo to the then boring area of Binondo.

At that time, each street in Tondo was famous for some of its residents' involvement in a particular crime, according to Sena.

"There were places notorious for the drug trade, gang wars," he recalled. "Masangkay, formerly called Calle Magdalena, played host to the city's number of members in the arts—and that's quoted with."

Most of them residents were Chinese who lived or resided in nearby schools, he said, adding in jest that people could count themselves lucky if they got holed up only three times in the process of walking from one end of the street to the other.

"Discrimination is just one fact that's manifest in many ways," he said. "Many people were scared of the area that's why its name was changed," he added, saying that he witnessed several such incidents. "Sometimes muggers (and bumos outside in Binondo) that (ran) to (their) hideout (after) (a) huge (robbery) (or) (a) (gold) (snatch)."

Sena said he also remembers his father's (also) close (ties) to Tondo's most famous gangsters, Asiong Salonga, who was said to be a neighborhood tough(er) with a soft heart for his poor.

"My father and Asiong (frequently) passed by our place (and) we (were) his (favorite) (and) (that) he didn't look like (that)," he said, laughing, referring to pantsuited President Joseph Estrada.

But (as) portrayed Asiongs in a movie during the early 1960s, it was a role that established the he was presented as a big-gesturing actor-a star.

Despite the negative connotation of Tondo, Sena said he has very fond memories.

Sena, whose interest in the arts started when he was in the second grade of elementary school, managed to pursue his interest in the fine arts at the University of the East through a scholarship given to him by the Children's Museum and Library Inc.

But even as he slowly regained some measure of success, Sena never forgot his roots. In fact, he opted to devote his time and talent to poor kids, particularly in Tondo, teaching them to paint and to love art. The eventually led him to establish the Sidewalk Sketch Art Group in 1973.

"Tondo has many divisions and poor children roaming in streets. And many of them are talented in the visual arts, but do not have money for education," he said.

"Helping the poor was also a fulfillment of my covenant with God. I promised Him I would share my talent with other (Hindi) school(s)," he added.

A devoutly religious person, Sena built a botanical (shrine) for Our Jesus de Nazareno (Hesus) in Masangkay Street. He worked on the project for several years, painting various pictures in different (colors) to (give) (appropriate) (ambiance).

"The shrine (was the) church—the (icons of) Magdalena and (Jesus) de Nazareno—also served as (one's) large (statue for) his art.

He said he used to (visit Tondo looking for a spot where) he could paint. Once he found it, people would inevitably gather around him, curious to see what he was doing.

"People often (mistook me for) a (surveyor. Others thought I was) part of the demolition (crew, "the) (poor-faced artist said, smiling).

Mi Lito (was the) (subject) of the old family home in Masangkay (to) (his) (shop. The camera-)(shy) woman was (consumed with) (her paintings) and (those of) (his) (students).

However, he lamented that the house, which used to stand beside the original site of St. Luke's hospital, was (demolished) a few years ago.

In 1987, Sena left Tondo after he decided to raise his own family.

But he was quick to admit that (until now), he frequently visits the places where he spent most of (his) (early).

"I (still) (have) friends and neighbors, so (check out old) neighborhood sentiments. Like Mang Kato's (appears) at the corner of Masangkay and La Torre (Streets), or (this) (Pasig) (which) (served) (as) (fishing) (port) (site)," Sena said, smiling at (the) recollection.

THE ARTIST at his old neighborhood

SENA (right) with his family and friends in front of the old family home.

WHILE at high school, Sena did odd jobs to earn money. CONTRIBUTED

WALKING down memory lane.

BOYSTEYING the Binondo Church where he used to sell newspapers and chewing gum.

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WE CAN'T just place all our faith solely on our OFWs. That would be unfair. We all have to be part of the solution."
EDITH BUENOS, Bulletin 2008

Rant or your heartbeat is

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in backbreaking jobs and at the bottom of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Why I love Nigeria despite what they say

By Penelope Endoso

WHY DO SO MANY FILIPINOS CHOOSE TO work in another developing country like Nigeria where there is a ban on all kinds of overseas Filipino workers?

The African continent holds too much a baggage of ills—civil and past that Evangelino "Vangie" Horta is willing to paint the real picture of this western African country to clear the clouded mind of many who have shunned the boundless in the Philippines. This includes a weak local economy that has placed an international barrier on other Filipino workers in the Niger land.

Vangie, 50, is one of the precious overseas Filipino workers based in Abuja, the land-locked capital of Nigeria. She left the Philippines on Oct. 31, 1980, and since then, she never looked back. "But I go home every single holiday I have," she says.

She never owned homes coming was obliged by a request of her aging mother in San Jose, Nueva Ecija. But before she went home to the Philippines, her employers would hesitate bring their relatives to hun their countries, such as Thailand and Singapore, just to see them.

"Most of them can't come because. They would only stay in Bangkok or Singapore and bring their parents there to meet them—which is a big burden for us," she says in Filipino in an interview in Manila. "If we are called the modern heroes, then why are we being punished like this?"

Only Filipinos have ban

Vangie says that among the countries that have sent overseas workers in Nigeria, the Philippines is the only country that imposed a total working ban to this host country, even if there is a roster of different multi-nationals in Abuja. "Why we Filipinos are the only ones that imposed the ban?"

She admits that the Niger Delta has been occupied with kidnapping issues.

Niger Delta is the biggest oil supplier in Africa and the provider of about one-fifth oil needs of US. Shell discovered it to be rich in 1956, but the locals now demanded equal shares from foreign oil companies through the armed Movement for Emancipation by Niger Delta (MEND) starting in early 2006.

Vangie is quick to defend that the unrest is an isolated case in Port Harcourt, the southern Delta capital, near the delta. She cited fatal as the ban was lifted for six week but was resumed when another batch of workers were kidnapped. She says the land-based and seaborne workers have different needs. "They are not landbased, they're transient. Livelihood. Why should the land-based workers suffer a solution that was meant for seaboard workers?"

3 different jobs

For more than two decades, Vangie are here Nigeria changed—and how. She changed her life, in the two land changed jobs through the years. She first worked as a teacher in a trade all-girls' school, then in accountant for a Chinese, Canadian businessman, and now a plane supervisor for a Germany company. "There are no domestic workers there. We are all professionals," she says.

Vangie worked as an education officer for 10 years in the Bendel State Secondary School for Girls. She's proud to enrolled some of her students here in Nigeria, including officials in various offices. "I don't remember them but they come to me and one of them said 'Ate Madam, you were my teacher, I am now in the Senate.'"

Her experience as a teacher was far reaching from what other countries in that time could offer.

Nigerians respected Filipinos, and that counts for any migrant worker she says. At one point where Filipinos in Nigeria were considering to flee the US in the mid-'90s, Vangie decided to gauge no-offer as much closer by observing her friend's class in New York. When the teacher asked the student to stand up, the Indian-grandson shouted his teach with a cheer "Yes! stay from me, you are cool mom." "They are enough for her to do that for office.

She says that aside from being hardworking and amiable guys, Filipinos are sought for because "they are very 'tolerant.'" When asked whether she had experienced any form of discrimination, Vangie says none. "In fact, people even cared for us."

In 1992, Vangie worked as a principal accountant for a manufacturer of diapers town outside Lagos, but her employer migrated. "I liked just one more year, but I opted to work in that time," she says.

Vangie has always seized opportunities as they come. She was assigned to Lejos, Port Harcourt and Kano, one of the oldest cities in Africa in civilization. This exposed her to the lifestyle she could only enjoy as her second home in Nigeria. In March 2001, she transferred to the Germans construction company as a senior copy and now a plane supervisor.

Fulfilled dreams

Vangie has helped her family the many as she is single. For what she's working in some ways, she says to compensate with what means. She enjoys her freedom and fulfills her dreams as she has toured around the world—many times over. She has been to the world's key cities such as Rome, Paris, Geneva, Madrid, Barcelona, New York, Guam do—that happened frequently earlier "last summer."

She couldn't hide her excitement as she mentioned how her plans when pilot on technical. But the more unreasonable experience for her was when she first sent remittance money to her family back home. She knows that not all Filipinos share the same lucky streak. Others were had all from compatriots, while some had problems in when they married Nigerian locals. For this, Vangie had a group of friends organized a Filipino group called "Pinoy Pinoy" in 2003. Most of the time, "Pinoy Pinoy" members organize fiesta jubs, parties and even International Products fair where proceeds go to the members in need.

"Just think about it, if we are not safe there, why do we have parties? We have parties almost every week there."

Work with full dignity

For someone who has been there for so long to understand how the host country treats its migrant workers, she knew that the Nigerian government and their employers are doing extraordinary for parents this undocumented workers.

At present, she has her own furnished house in a subdivision called "life camp" with other multi-national workers. She has her own car and driver and she gets to meet Filipinos new member and Secretary Minister. She has a complete life there and she knows she could not find it elsewhere. "We want to invite President Macapagal-Arroyo on the month! So, why do you need to fear?"

"I'm the Philippines give us jobs here?"

The answer was very well answer another question she posed: "So, why do you need to fear?"

LOOK WHAT GIRLS PLACE ON THEIR HEADS TO MAKE A POINT Vangie Horta (second from left) and her Filipino colleagues at Pinoy Pinoy celebrate her retirement Women's Day in style while promoting the host on the display mast of Filipino workers to Nigeria.

NOVO (second from right), Mgr. Rosco Prado of Abuja and friends, all long-time workers and residents of Nigeria, find a good time to talk about the old times.

You can't bring your adopted child to the US just like that

CYNTHIA MCGUIRE TO the United States as a registered nurse. She married a man and but he to her custody. Marlon, a minor child given to her in the hospital where she worked 13 years ago. Marlon was not allowed to join her to the US. The reason given was that Marlon did not qualify as an adopted or planned child.

The birth certificate of Marlon shows that Cynthia was the birth mother. This was not recognized by consular officials. Cynthia was advised to judicially adopt Marlon and that she prohibited him instead to his or phan child.

Adopting a child

Adopted children are classified into two: adopted child and orphan child. An adopted child under 16th birthday and who has been in the joint legal custody of, and has resided, with for qualifying adopting parents or planed for at least two years. There is a two-year legal custody and two-year joint residency requirement before an adopted child may be given an IR-3 visa or a lawful permanent resident adoptive parent.

On the other hand, orphan child is one who is determined to be unclaim for (1) death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion of, or separation or loss from both parents; or (2) the fact that the sole or surviving parent is incapable of providing proper care for the child and has irrevocably released parental rights in writing to the emigration and naturalization. There is a two-year residency and legal custody requirement for an orphan adoption.

These classifications of children are defined for purposes of adoption and immigration

IMFO

Conrado Jurado Jr.

to the US. The procedures for immigration of the adopted child and the orphaned children are different.

How to do it

For the adopted child, a Form I-130 petition is filed prior to meeting the two-year legal and physical custody of the child. Proving the two-years physical presence with the child is difficult, especially for the prospective adoptive parents who have long been residing in the US. The adoptive parents are considerable then who would like to petition their nephew or niece to help their siblings raise their families.

The orphan child does not need to show two years of physical presence with the adoptive parent, but the procedure for petitioning orphan adopted child is more complicated. Once the adoption dossier is issued by the court, the prospective adoptive parents are required to submit evidence filed with the US consulate such supporting evidence that the child is an "orphan" This petition must be filed before the child turns 16.

Last year, the US ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention). The regulations on intercountry adoptions became effective on April 11. The Philippines is one of the Hague Convention countries.

According to the new regulations, those wishing to adopt from the convention country must course it through an accredited adoption service. The US Department of State includes countries a list of the accredited adoption service providers.

A Central Authority or its designee is located in its Hague Convention country to determine whether a person is qualified to adopt and whether the child meets the definition of an eligible child. The Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB) is the Central Authority in the Philippines.

A child's best interest

Under the new procedure, the Immigration Form I-800A and I-800 are filed first to start the process and, if it is approvable, that is the only time the adoptive parent may file the adoption petition with the Citizenship and Immigration Services. A child is legal if the Philippines is one of the Hague Convention countries.

The Hague Adoption Convention rules may appear confusing but these are enacted to ensure that would-be adopted children are not provided prospective loving homes and when abduction, sale or traffic in children is prevented.

Adoptive parents who have obtained their orphaned child data in their own without the judicial decree of adoption must undergo the process pursuant to the Hague Convention to enable them to obtain lawful permanent resident or citizenship status in the US.

In the case of Cynthia and those similarly situated, they must begin the process of adoption as soon as possible and they must do so only through accredited service agencies to avoid denial in the petitioning process. The best interest and well being of the children will be served by taking diligent steps to legalize their status as adopted and must delay.

(Readers may be reached at IMFO777 or by e-mail at law@pinoyexpress.com)

Convicted of robbery, kidnap: Law finally catches up with Simpson

LAS VEGAS—O.J. SIMPSON, who went from sometime sports idol to celebrity to exile after he was acquitted of murder in 1995, was found guilty on Friday of robbing two sports memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room.

Simpson, 61, could spend the rest of his life in prison.

A seven- and-a-half-hour Simpson refused a heavy sigh as the charges were read by the clerk in Clark County District Court. He was immediately taken into custody.

The Hall of Fame football star was convicted of kidnapping, armed robbery and 12 other charges for gathering up five men a year ago and escorting him to a room at a hotel casino, where the group seized several game balls, plaques and photos. Prosecutors said the robber men stole a film crew's memory card. Three said Simpson ordered the crime but denied it.

The verdict came 13 years to the day after Simpson was cleared of murdering his ex-wife and a friend of hers in Los Angeles in one of the most sensational trials of the 20th century.

Simpson's codefendant, Clarence "C.J." Stewart, 54, also was found guilty on all charges and faces life in prison.

Simpson showed little emotion as officers handcuffed him and walked him out of the courtroom. His sister, Carmelita Bates, sobbed behind him.

From the beginning, Simpson and lawyers argued the incident was not a robbery, but an attempt to reclaim memorabilia that had been stolen from him. He said he did not ask anyone to bring a weapon and did not see any guns.

O.J. Simpson arrives in court before being found guilty on all 12 charges on Oct. 3.

The defense portrayed Simpson as a victim of shady characters who wanted to make a buck off his misfortune, and police officers who saw his arrest as an opportunity to "get" him and leverage his acquittal.

Prosecutors said Simpson's ownership of the memorabilia was irrelevant; it was still a crime to rob to take things by force.

"When they went into that room and forced the victims to the far side of the room, pulling out guns and yelling, 'Don't let anybody out of here!'—not very many people do—thinking there was 10 felons in the room with the intent to take property through force or violence from them—that's kidnapping," prosecutor David Roger said.

Kidnapping is punishable by five years to life in prison. Armed robbery carries a mandatory sentence of at least two years behind bars, and could bring as many as 20.

Simpson, who now lives in Miami, did not testify but was heard on a recording of the confrontation screaming that the dealers had stolen his property. "Don't let anybody out of this room," he declared and told the other men to scoop up his items, which included a photo of Simpson with former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Four other men charged in the case struck plea bargains that saved them from potential prison sentences in return for their testimony. Some of them had criminal records or were otherwise compromised in some way. One, for example, was an alleged pimp who testified he had a revelation from God telling him to plea bargain.

Memorabilia dealer Thomas Riccio, who arranged and secretly recorded the hotel-room confrontation, said he netted $110,000 from the media for the tapes.

Similarly, minutes after the Sept. 11, 2001, incident, one of the alleged victims, sports-memorabilia dealer Alfred Beardsley, was selling news exhibits, and the other, Bruce Fleming, spoke of getting "big money" from the case.

Simpson's past haunted the case.

Las Vegas police officers were heard in the recordings chuckling over Simpson's misfortune and assuming that if Los Angeles couldn't "get" him, they would.

During jury selection, Simpson's lawyer expressed fears that people who believed he got away with murder might see this case as a chance to right a wrong. AP

HUIT LOVE DOGS
Ah-chemo' and her Afghan dog await extradition during the European dog show in Bordeaux on Dec. 2. At least 20,000 dogs gathered at the show, the biggest such event in Europe. REUTERS

WORLD BRIEFS

Cambodia warns Thailand after border clash

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia protested to Thailand on Saturday about a border shooting incident in which three soldiers were wounded and said it is ready to file a complaint with the International Court of Justice. The ambassador to Thailand was summoned to the Thai Foreign Ministry in Bangkok to protest the incident, which happened Friday morning, Cambodian Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said. Prime Minister Hun Sen agreed to an investigation of the border into Friday's exchange of fire and Thailand's foreign ministry said the situation was calm. Thai soldiers and one Cambodian soldier were injured in initial exchanges of gunfire. Cambodia's government has raised the issue of the 900-year-old Preah Vihear temple since the two countries agreed to pull back its troops after a serious confrontation. Each country has accused the other of encroaching on its territory and each responded to the other with fire. Reuters

Taiwan welcomes $6.5-B US arms package

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou welcomed on Saturday a US decision to sell the island up to $6.5 billion in advanced weaponry, ending a months-long delay in the package, which includes Apache helicopters and Patriot III missiles. In a notification to the US Congress on Friday, the state department said the deal would proceed if no lawmaker voices any objection within 30 days. The United States is required by law to provide Taiwan with defensive weapons against a possible invasion by China. It remains Taiwan's most important ally and largest arms supplier, even after Washington switched its diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979. AP

UK's Brown recruits old foe to tackle crisis

LONDON—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown moved his cabinet on Friday, installing old friend and one-time political opponent Peter Mandelson as an effort to show political teamwork in a time of economic crisis. The return of Mandelson, the European Union trade commissioner, ends a six-year spiral in history of rivalry between him and Brown, and his performance for the politician and leadership of Brown's predecessor, Tony Blair. But Brown clearly intended to strengthen Brown's position within his Labour Party at a time when the prime minister is lagging in the polls and under pressure to show leadership in the right response to the economy. Mandelson will be business minister and is expected to play a central role in a newly created economic council that will most have a mandate from a politician and help people cope with the fallout from the economic crisis. Reuters

7 Russian soldiers killed in S. Ossetia blast

MOSCOW—Seven Russian peacekeepers were killed and seven others wounded when a car filled with explosives blew up near their home in Georgia's breakaway region of South Ossetia on Friday, Russian news agencies reported. Russian Defense Ministry deputy chief Nikolai Makarov said the blast was a "terrorist act" aimed at undermining international efforts to restore peace in the region, scene of a five-day war between Russia and Moscow in August. The South Ossetian leader pointed the finger at Tbilisi. But Georgia denied responsibility. Reuters

20 killed by US strike in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PAKISTANI villagers collected body parts of at least 20 people, including several suspected Arab militants, killed by a US missile strike on a house in a southwestern tribal area, intelligence officials said on Saturday.

A pilotless drone struck the house late Friday in the village of Ahmadzai, about 15 km south of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, a known sanctuary of ex-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

"We now have a figure of 20 that includes eight residents of the house, four other locals and seven foreign, ex," an intelligence official said while speaking on condition of anonymity.

The foreigners appeared to be Arabs, although their nationalities were unknown, the official said.

The Dawn newspaper reported that the strike was aimed and based on information that the foreigners had been invited to a feast by pro-Taliban tribesmen following the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

There were no indications that any of those killed were regarded by US counterterrorism agencies as top-tier al Qaeda targets, sources said.

As a top spokesperson said on Saturday there had been an explosion in the area, but was unable to confirm the report.

Faced with an intensifying Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, US forces in the past month have carried out eight missile strikes by pilotless drones and a commando raid on the Pakistani side of the border.

The US strikes, and the first ever use of ground troops, have strained relations between the allies.

The Pakistani government has protested that the attacks violated international sovereignty and undermined its own long-term efforts to crack militancy in a country where anti-American sentiment runs high.

The Pakistan army is currently fighting fierce battles against militants in Bajaur, at the northern entrance of the tribal belt, and Swat, an upper valley in a more settled region closer to the tribal lands.

More than 1,300 militants have been killed in the fighting in Bajaur and Swat since August.

Pakistani authorities fear it is doing its best to contain militants have done little to oppose US incursions. Reuters

PROTAGONISTA KONTRABIDA EKSTRA KONTRABIDA PROTAGONISTA BOMBA BIDA KONTRABIDA BIDA PROTAGONISTA KONTRABIDA PROTAGONISTA BOMBA PROTAGONISTA KONTRABIDA EKSTRA BIDA KONTRABIDA BIDA PROTAGONISTA PROTAGONISTA EKSTRA KONTRABIDA KONTRABIDA PROTAGONISTA BOMBA PROTAGONISTA KONTRABIDA EKSTRA KONTRABIDA PROTAGONISTA BOMBA BIDA KONTRABIDA BIDA PROTAGONISTA KONTRABIDA PROTAGONISTA BOMBA PROTAGONISTA KONTRABIDA EKSTRA BIDA KONTRABIDA BIDA PROTAGONISTA BIDA EKSTRA BOMBA

Es la historia.
Ito ang istorya mo.

KONTRABIDA
PROTAGONISTA

Película
Pelikula
Pelikula
7th Spanish Film Festival

October 1 - 12, 2008 Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1

The WORLD

Lilian Lorraine B. Suazo

McCain's chances get narrow as Obama gains

ST. LOUIS—WITH ONE MONTH left in the campaign, Republican John McCain's path to the White House has become perilously narrow as Democratic rival Barack Obama gains momentum in crucial battleground states.

McCain is fighting to hold several states won by President George W. Bush in 2004, including tightly contested Florida and Ohio, and is playing defense against a surging Obama in traditionally Republican states like Indiana and North Carolina.

The deepening economic crisis and prolonged negotiations on a $700 billion bailout of Wall Street institutions have played to Obama's perceived strengths on the economy, helping the Illinois senator gain a solid lead in national opinion polls and pick up steam over the last few weeks.

"McCain has so many margins of error—by small enough most of the key battleground states," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University poll. "He needs to draw an inside straight to win."

Recent polls show McCain in a dogfight in Ohio, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, Missouri and Indiana. All were won by Bush in 2004 and McCain cannot afford to lose them as he tries to piece together the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the White House.

"If McCain loses even one of those he's toast," Brown said.

The pressure on McCain was highlighted by his decision on Thursday to pull staff and advertising from Michigan, won by Democrat John Kerry in 2004, for the end drive to the Nov. 4 election.

Obama has a double-digit lead in two recent polls in that state, home to the automotive industry and a distressed manufacturing-based economy.

"If we see a swing back in our favor, we'll go aggressive," McCain adviser Greg Strimple said.

McCain advisers said they would launch an aggressive advertising campaign against Obama in traditionally Republican states like Indiana, which has not voted for a Democrat for president since 1964, and said that should coup Bush-built kids is held.

"We're going to make sure everyone knows who Barack Obama is," Strimple said. "And once they do, we believe the state will come back reliably Republican as it's always been."

Obama appears to be in a strengthening position to hold all or nearly all of the states won by Kerry in 2004, including one-time toss-up New Hampshire and 42 four electoral votes where recent polls give him a double-digit lead.

He also looks to be on track to recapture Iowa and New Mexico—two states won by Bush—for Democrats, putting him just six electoral votes shy of the 270 he needs to win.

Under that scenario, breakthrough victories in any of seven remaining battleground states like Virginia, Colorado, Ohio and Florida would put Obama in the White House.

"We have been a point or two off every time McCain has," Obama campaign manager David Plouffe told reporters. "To be as strong as we are in Virginia, Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico, Florida, Ohio...a lot of our key take more states—we feel very positively about where we are."

Plouffe said the campaign was particularly encouraged about Florida, which decided the 2000 election. McCain has virtually no chance to win without Florida, and four new polls this week gave Obama a lead of three to eight percentage points.

"Florida is a big deal," Plouffe said. "I never walk 27 electoral votes that they thought was going to be in their base column, could now be more competitive."

Republicans hope the presidential began to swing back their way on Thursday with a steady performance by McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, in a debate with Democratic vice presidential hopeful Joe Biden. McCain and Obama have two more debates, with the next on Tuesday in Nashville, Tennessee.

"If the election were today Obama would win by a comfortable margin," Brown said. "But it's possible we're at a tipping point for Obama where he wins in a Democratic landslide we haven't seen since 1964." *Reuters*

OBAMA and McCain during the first US presidential debate in Oxford, Mississippi on Sept. 26. AFP/FILE

More nations pull out suspect products as China milk scandal spreads

HUE, SOUTH KOREA, Australia and Japan on Saturday pulled melamine-contaminated sweets and drinks from supermarket shelves amid a widening scandal over Chinese milk products banned with the toxic chemical.

Authorities in Seoul ordered Maxi and Haitai to pull their products after melamine, which is usually used for making plastics, was detected in snacks made in China by the manufacturers.

The industrial chemical had been found in Mitill's milk chocolate snack and Sinkwon peanut Pan Stix, both produced by Maxi, and Kit Kat chocolate bars imported from Nestlé Tianjin in China, Korea Food and Drug Administration said.

"Maxi is recalling these products because it is legally obligated to do so following the announcement by the Korean Food and Drug Administration (KFDA)," Maxi said in a statement.

Nestlemore has been blamed for making those kinds of tokens ill and killing four in mainland China after it mixed baby milk powder to use of the country's worst ever product safety scandals.

China is struggling to limit the damage to its food safety reputation as a growing number of countries have decided to suspend imports of Chinese milk products or with dairy from farms who were the scandal.

Most said while it was complying with the batch-by-case request, the melamine levels detected were too small to pose a health risk, and called for a standard supporting limit of the industrial chemical across feeds.

"Mimi's traces of melamine are commonly found throughout the global food chain and indicates levels below 2.5 ppm are not deemed to indicate adulteration with melamine," it said. There was no immediate comment from World Korea.

A KFDA official said South Korea does not allow any level of melamine in food. "Melamine is food is our standard," he told AFP.

World Health Organization food safety expert Peter Ben Embarek said earlier this week that many countries had only recently fixed limits for melamine in food as "melamine has nothing to do with the food chain."

The chemical was added to milk before being sold to dairy manufacturers in a bid to falsely boost protein readings. Chinese authorities have said.

A South Chinese milk product has been withdrawn from sale in Australia after tests revealed it was tainted with melamine. Food Standards Australia New Zealand said in a statement. *AFP*

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Magnolia, Inc. is the first and only dairy company in the Philippines to be certified by the Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) as compliant to ISO 22000:2005, the highest assurance of food safety. This means Magnolia not only makes products of consistent premium quality, but also makes doubly sure these products are the cleanest and safest consumers can buy.

Guaranteed 100% Melamine-free

Magnolia Ready-To-Drink Milk is certified melamine-free by our accredited suppliers from New Zealand, Australia, USA and Europe.

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QUALITY FOODS THAT NOURISHES GENERATIONS

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Red Sox clip Angels' wings; Rays go 2-0 /A26

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Tedjdrix S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dichoso

Texters trim Tigers, finally

ADORE me color patrol Dillinger of Talk 'N Text dribbles his way past Coca-Cola's John Arigo. RAFFY DIMAYUGA

TRUE 'N TEXT mates hold talk with basketball during the PBA opening drill with comedy actress Ruffa Mae Quinto making up as Snow White and covered by Pluma Pali-uniformed "seven dwarves." RAFFY DIMAYUGA

By Cedelf P. Tejero

THE OPENING act for Chot Reyes and his retooled Talk 'N Text was a victory made possible by a late Coca-Cola blunder and one that needed a review of the tape.

The new look Scoring Texters escaped with a thrilling 94-97 squeaker over the Tigers last night at the start of the KFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers, still celebrating a crucial defensive stop that handed them an opportunity to snatch the win, never slipped while a redressed foul by crunchie Simcoe with 9.7 seconds left taken Asi Taulava used for time from the backcourt after restarting on one half.

It was a redressed foul based on a technicality. Coca-Cola actually had a 30-second timeout but since Taulava was on the backcourt, officials, as league rules dictate, called it an unreasonable full timeout.

That gave Jimmy Alapag a fresh sheet free throw which he converted to shatter the game's stressful and last deadlock at 97-all.

Missed opportunity

Coca-Cola could have snatched the win on the next play but Alex Cabagnot missed a potential game-winning shot from 15 feet. Taulava's follow-up failed to beat the buzzer although referees had to review the last play on the monitor to confirm the late basket.

"We got a break with that technical foul," said coach Chot Reyes after the Texters won for the first time since they traded Taulava in last year's Philippine Cup.

"This is a gutty win. I felt we played really well at a time when we really needed Ali (Peek)."

Reniel Rilloraza pumped in 24 points, 20 in the first half when the Texters led, 60-42.

Behind Teodoro, Nic Belasco and Sonjay Buenaste, the Tigers closed their way back and even entered a 95-94 advantage on Buenaste's triple with 69.7 seconds left.

"We are a very small team and eventually the size disadvantage takes its toll on the players," said Reyes.

But Yancy De Ocampo, who scored the season's first basket from beyond the arc, nailed a triple off his own offensive rebound to swing the lead back to the Texters, 97-95.

Cabagnot then buried two free throws in 4 opaque with 32 sec. could left.

Good account

Talk 'N Text rookies Jared Dillinger, Aaron Castro and Rob Reyes also made good account of themselves. Dillinger teamed one to be the most impressive with 15 points and six rebounds. Before leaving the game in the fourth quarter because of cramps.

Relishing his new role as a point guard, Castro had five points and dished seven assists.

"I'm very happy with my rookies," added Reyes, who also drew seven points and four rebounds from Rob Reyes.

Norwood debut

Meanwhile, Gabe Norwood, the No. 1 overall pick in the rookie draft, makes his debut today when his Rain or Shine crew battles Air21 at 4 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome.

San Miguel Beer and Alaska, on the other hand, collide at 6:30 p.m. in a battle of teams that have also revamped their rosters.

Ron Magbuhat added Mick Pennisi and Joe Washington to its already formidable roster while Alaska dealt away its top draft pick, Sonsanes Mercado, to Rain or Shine for high-scoring big man Ivo Durisic.

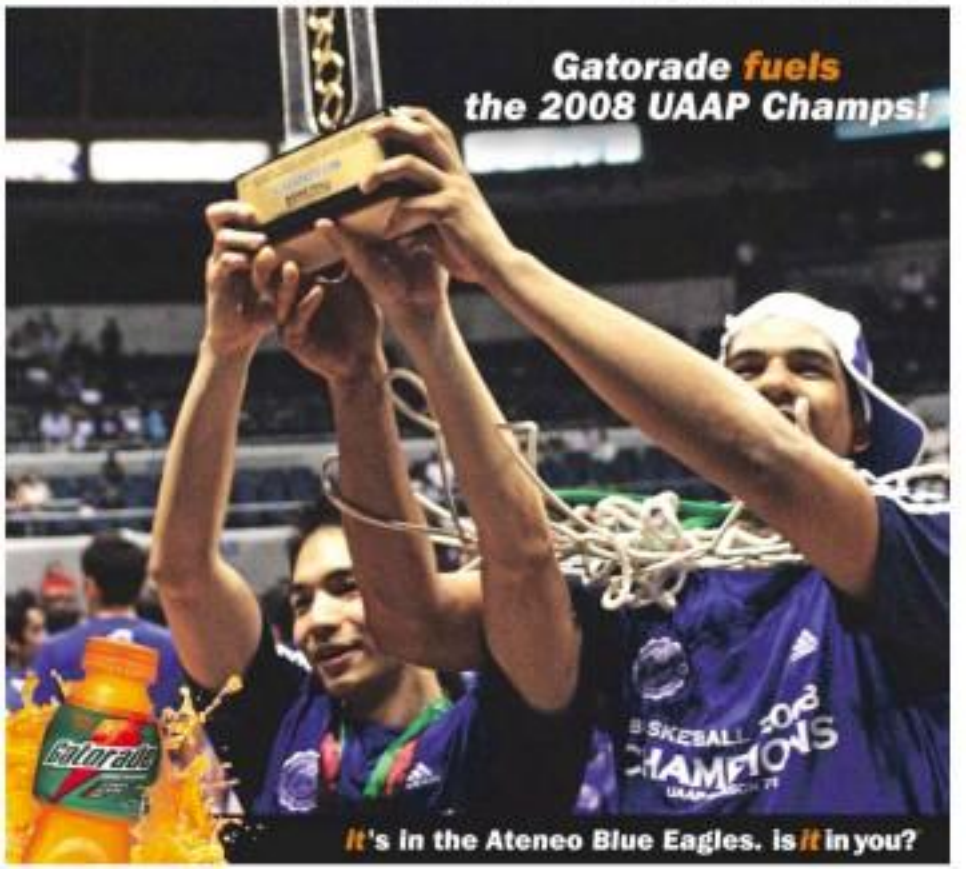
Mercado will join Norwood in the Rain or Shine backcourt against Air21.

The scores:

BLA W. 'ERS' 96—Hrbak 24, Urdeta 17, Dillinger 15, De Ocampo 11, Flores 7, Castro 6, Alvarez 5, Cortez 5, Reyes 2, Agbayani 2, Ilas 0, Lee 0.

COCA-COLA 97—Simcoe 20, Belasco 16, Cabagnot 9, Taulava 15, Yeo 11, Arigo 4, Buenaventura 2, Arigo 4, Bugarin 2, Calimag 2.

Quarters: 23-24, 46-43, 70-71, 94-97



TEN BALL SEMIS

Pulpul's magical run ends

By Marvey R. Castillo

DEMOSTHENES PULPUL WILL have to be content with finishing third as Philippine pool's current top dueling.

Pulpul's magical ride in the third ever World Ten Ball Championship came to a screeching halt courtesy of the seasoned Wu Chia-ching, who pounced on every error by the underdog Filipino to crush the title match of the $400,000 event yesterday.

Using a borrowed cue stick but still brandishing the same fiery game, the 24-year-old Taiwanese ace blew a 5-0 lead but clinched himself when it mattered to post an 11-6 semifinal victory at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Deprived of a decent meal after battling Chinese Lin Hsiao-Ling, 13-8, in the quarterfinals earlier, Pulpul lost his touch after a magnificent rally from four shots down that even had him taking a 7-5 lead.

It was the only lost in seven matches for Pulpul, the 23-year-old father of two from Cagayan de Oro who made people forget his vacancy handy cause with his brilliant play.

The loss also wiped out the Philippine contingent in the week-long event that drew players from 47 countries as Pulpul followed Marlon Manalo and Anticho Basares to the showers.

Manalo and Basares bowed out after close losses in the last 16 late Friday night.

"Pahirap po talt (I still practice some more)," said Pulpul who will play for third place today against the loser of the Ninh Bujpo Dawson Aquinoco match that was going out at press time.

Fujian philanthropist fellow Dominican Mik Hui Den Bing, 11-7, while Appleton earned American Charlie Williams, 11-6, in the other quarterfinal duels.

Wu gave short to Pulpul when it clinched 11-7 dismantling of Finn Mike Jacobsen.

Finishing third would mean a $25,000 (around P1.175 million) boost to fix the tuckers high school undergraduate. Pulpul, who took up the sport because of poverty also runs ago.

Fourth place would still give Pulpul $20,000.

Pulpul, who said he's very proud when people called him a hero of the country's campaign, swore that he wasn't nervous or anything in the match that took more than three hours to conclude.

The way unless, he said, came from Filipino and Basares after having eaten just three pieces of crackers in a 15-minute break between matches.

"I couldn't follow through on my shots anymore," Pulpul told reporters in Filipino. "I felt fatigued and very weak. Maybe it (championship) just wasn't meant for me."

DEMOSTHENES PULPUL I will practice some more. JOHN PAUL MORALES

He, who lost his cue stick after a tournament in China before coming over, thought that he would have no problem in overcoming Wu.

Instead, he found the smiling target and finally admitted that Pulpul had the game to beat him as the Filipino won seven straight racks before two-striking two series of errors and very nature that put the Taiwanese back in the table.

Cutillas apologizes

SCHEIE BONG HERNANDEZ, PUBLICIST of the Philippine Football Federation, pleased to inform me that football coach Aran Cutillas has apologized to the young girl he had brawled out at another parents.

Being re-placated after Cutillas said, "I'm sorry," the girl's parents accepted the apology in the spirit of sportsmanship. Cutillas said he was not a little hard of hearing."

If that's the only problem, I told Bong I would strongly recommend the use of a hearing aid to avoid an incident of the same nature in the future.

* * *

I wasn't too surprised when I got a phone call from the girl's business/sportsman father a few days ago. He said he had just returned from a trip abroad and was surprised to read about the incident in this column.

He said he had tried hard to keep the story from leaking to the press. He confirmed that Cutillas had sent in a letter of apology and although he was inclined to accept it, his wife was not.

"My daughter was severely traumatized by the incident, she has decided to quit the football team," the father said.

The girl is a consistent honor student at Poveda and an outstanding athlete.

* * *

The annual promotion 1984 press conference was seen where Japanese columnist Haruki Murakami noticed at the ballroom of the Diamond Hotel along Roxas Blvd.

He was about 5 p.m. and all the members of the press were in a hurry to get back to their respective offices to write their story. But since it had been about a decade since Haruki last set foot in a PBA premises, his colleagues decided to keep him company for lunch, and later on coffee, and much, much later on dinner at the Diamond lobby.

Thanks to the wonders of the Internet, the stories got to the editorial desks on time. However, most of the scribes failed to make it to their offices that day. It would be another eight hours before the group, joined by PBA entertainment Jaime Fabros and cocktail hostess Jenel Vidar Marcial, would pack up and catch a bus. By then, it was 12 o'clock.

* * *

When scribes get together, you can imagine the range of topics they discuss and debate on.

Most are off the record, particularly those concerning the latest controversies.

Most made our eyes pop however, although it may be old hat to most, was the talk concerning boxing champ Manny Pacquiao. It did not concern his forthcoming fight with Golden Boy Oscar De La Hoya though, but how the spic-and-span boxer with table manners, who is pregnant with the Parazzo's fourth child.

From what I gathered, Atoke had found out that actress Iza Miss, Manny's co-star in a movie last year, was also in Los Angeles providing moral support to the boxing champ while he trained. She's not only a movie star, told one another. There was also another favorable booster from San Diego.

A veteran scribe said he went so far as to request the entertainment editor of his paper to check on the whereabouts of Iza Miss to confirm if indeed she was in the United States.

When I'd like to know more if Pacquiao was able to fix his domestic mess of affairs when he went back to Los Angeles. He was just here in Manila for two days.

By the way, it was not confirmed by my colleagues if Ara Miss was in the US.

* * *

Elsa Serrano of the Qatar Basketball Federation, who is in town for a short vacation, told of a PBA former ball players who turned off team Doha last in Qatar when his team recently went there to play in an exhibition series.

Apparently, the player, who used to be friendly and approachable, has become arrogant and snobbish since the last time he was here.

Close He is a member.

Murakami, Pucay aim for Top 20 finish

SEOUL—MURAKAMI MORIkami and Elmer Pucay entered in consecutive for a top 20 finish after the third round of the Below-Hanoi Multi Stone Open Saturday.

Murakami, with rounds of 70-70-72, stood in a two-way tie for the 16th place at 212 while Pucay was a stroke behind at 213 after scoring a second straight 73 to go with an opening 71.

Bid Filipino Jun Jose Pagunsan continued to falter after an other 74 left him at 216.

Korean Bae Sang-moon kept the lead after carding a 69 for a 203 total at the Mac Arthur Country Club. He posed a four-stroke group at 204 headed by Ryder Cuppest Anthony Kim of the US and Ian Poulter of England. Asian Tour Player

Joseph hits back at critics

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION (POC) president Mark Joseph yesterday lashed back at his critics who wanted the Philippine Olympic Committee to declare him ineligible to vote and run in the coming POC elections.

Joseph, who is also the POC deputy secretary general, said the group—composed of coaches, swimmers and parents—is not even a member of the swimming association.

"The insisted that these people that [took the roles of Thai International swimming federation] and Thai are not members, have the gall to question my legitimacy," Joseph told the swimmer through text.

The group maintained that Joseph is no longer eligible to serve as Pasi chief following an agreement forged by the POC arbitration committee four years ago.

But Joseph said he was confirmed by both the POC and the Pasi in 2005.

Joseph said Pasi is busy with the "good cause" like holding the 6th Asian swimming coupe under reinvented world FINA Powers.

So youngest to breach 2600

FROM TOUGHEST TO HEARTIEST.

A few days before turning 15 years old, Wesley So, currently the world's youngest Grandmaster, added another entry to his ever-long credentials by becoming the youngest ever player to breach the 2600 barring of the World Chess Federation.

In its latest quarterly rating released recently, the Fide gave the pride of Cavite, an Elo of 2630, the highest among Filipinos to the list.

The big jump from So's July rating of 2577 can be attributed to his ninth place finish in this year's World Junior championships for players 20 and under and his dominating performance in the World Under-16 Olympiad where he competed in board one gold medalist and conquered the Philippines to third place behind India and Russia.

Actually, So's rating round to 2624 in August before it edged over it to Filipinos, but his rating dipped a little bit last month after the back to back 3rd Dubai Cup and the 4th Prospero Pichay Cup held in Manila.

At this stage of his career, he is doing even better than Norwegian 17-year-old wonder Magnus Carlsen, the world No. 4 with an Elo of 2706. Carlsen was behind 2699 in July ago.

So will represent the Philippines in the upcoming 38th Chess Olympiad slated Nov. 12-25 in Dresden, Germany. Ria Lanos

MIGHTY Mayor JV Ejercito joins the Mighty Sports-San Juan City squad in celebration after winning the 1st Inter-City Basketball Championship held recently at the San Juan gym.

SPORTSWATCH

Adidas KOTR Oct. 11

A TOTAL OF P174,000 IN RADIOS (BIT certificates and P70,000 cash awaiting the winners of the Adidas KOTR run on Oct. 11 at the Bonifacio Drive City in Taguig City.

Accordingly, Jess Dingler, managing director of Adidas Phils., Inc., the top male and female finishers in the 21K centerpiece event of the three-event run certificates for valued P10,000 cash and P10,000 sneaker adidas gift certificates and a trophy.

Top finishers for the men's and women's categories will receive P5,000 cash, P3,000 gift certificate and a medal. The 10K overall winner for both the adult and female categories will receive P5,000 cash and P5,000 gift certificate and a trophy.

The top finishers of the five age group categories in the 10K run will receive P3,000 cash and P3,000 gift certificate.

Alcala rules surf invitational

PUNTA DIAMOND HOTEL RESORT ALCALA in Pangasinan perfect for host the Surf Invitational to capture the prestigious Bishop Cup 9 Invitational in Bangan Island.

Running against with two minutes remaining, Alcala displayed brilliantly by amassing the tough the Cebu 9 of 2 and 8 score for a final winning 1-41 ride.

Alcala, who donned the skills at the Cloud 9 surfing is another perfect right hand surf break, finished the 36 minutes-hot round with a total of 18.9 points.

While Gerchel, the defending champion from Australia, tallied 17.77 points. Three-time Cebu Cup champion Joseph the tournament's only 40 point ride in the series.

"I'm so happy," said the 20-year-old rookie after winning his first big international tournament. He scored $7,000.

Alta Vista eyes Sta. Lucia sweep

CEBU—ASSISTED BY A 3-2-3 showing in two divisions, host Alta Vista threatened to sweep all four categories of the Visayas leg of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour here Friday.

Female Cagayan de Oro standout Jane Ann Abellana Vista became overall and first in Group 1 while the pair of Dra. Galena Bonacher Uy and three teammates took charge in Group B in a solid start for the seven leaders heading into tomorrow's final round.

Alta Vista Hinds Captain were also shined in Group B while Polina de Alberto Abby Villanueva took command in senior play, pacing Alta Vista on the line for a sure shutout of the four categories.

Unless the seven other Alta Vista is a way to stop the Alta Vista assault, the Cebuanos are expected to pile up more points in the standings of the unique event which features eight of the exclusive clubs developed and operated by Sta. Lucia Realty.

The leads posted by Alta Vista in their home course, however, were so big that a sweep seems within reach.

The Tour is also sponsored by LG Electronics, Northwest Airlines, Sports Network Taylor Made, Infinity, Bancnet, Interim Golf, Orbit, Club Shapes, Pagcor and Philippine Airlines. Helen-in-one sponsors are Toyota and Texas Eagle Turf Company, Marco Polo and Mandarin Distillers is the official towels.

Even the individual race is also on Alta Vista show with four of its best leadings in six divisions.

Eunice Sohn is aimed in the championship class. Ito is Class A, Pen Estrada, Bea Rosario Sesk and Gubaza in Class B and Villanueva in seniors play. Former mayor Jaime Castillo of Oroquieta and Ted Pinto of Summit Point were voted for the Open Class while Royale Tagaytay's Antonio Lagan paced Class B.

Networkx bags 15 jet ski trophies

THE NETWORKX JETSPORTS TEAM posted a big harvest as it sportsjet Dinaro Racing in their standalone recently in the 1st SBMA Jet Ski Grand Prix at the Waterfront Beach of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Networkx Jetsports bagged 15 trophies after clinching six wins three runners-up and three third places against Dinaro Racing's 3-5-2 tally in the event made possible through Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator Armand Arreza and Deputy Administrator for Tourism Raul F. Mercado and backed by SBMA, Courtyard Inn, Sony's Grill, Networx auto Detailing, Interimatic Inc., Jaeyhellmer and Kinnevan Jewelers.

Three-time Rider of the Year Paul del Rosario pocketed three victories in the elite class of the Expert division.

DEL ROSARIO

MANGIO

Also Vista finished runners-up in the Senior A Division.

Bill Ang, an editor World Jet Ski Finalist who chaired the 2000 Rider of the Year and 2001 Jet Ski Worlds, delivered a big swap in the Expert division Black.

Ezel Torres, a long-time jetskier and race Master of Tightness, Rolls, ended the Expert 800 Stock while Maynard Ko topped the Novice 4 Division on his Jet Ski.

Other Riders finished runners-up in

Eala tells Toroman's critics: Give change a chance

SEEMINGLY BASKETBALL-CRAZY FILIPINAS executive director Mell Rish appealed yesterday to critics panning Rajko Toroman's appointment as the national basketball's program project director for a little while, urging the lesbian to "unpickle and willing to help."

"It is how for everyone to just calm down," Rish said in a text message to the Inquirer. "We all belong to the same team so let's not pull each other down."

"Why don't we give change a chance?" he added. "We have a person who is clearly capable and is willing to help. Marrying club or none if Toroman (Toroman brings a lot to the table), including consulting we badly need—to assist global credibility to our program."

Rish was reacting to reports quoting national coach Serg Galan as saying that country now surpasses on Toroman. Newspaper reports quoted Galan as saying that the SBP should have spent its money on naturalizing a foreign 7-footer for the national team instead.

The same for Galan will have enough funds at his disposal to get his 7 boths," said Rish.

Toroman's hiring has been the subject of intense scrutiny by the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines (BCAP), which over his appointment as a stepping stone toward a head coaching job with the national team.

The BCAP frowns on foreigners holding local coaching positions as part of an initiative to protect the welfare of Filipino coaches.

Rish said Toroman, indeed, came out up coaching the national team, but only if the program of the former boss national amateur passes SBP scrutiny. When that happens, Toroman's appointment will be made in the proper manner.

"There will be nothing illegal or unlawful about it," Rish explained.

The former PBA commissioner has also written in contract with BCAP chief Chito Narvasa, although Narvasa said Tuesday night that he is still awaiting the most document. "It wouldn't surprised you guys—before holding more talks with the SBP."

"We asked for his [commission vitae] and his program because we wanted to come up with a win-win situation," Narvasa said the Inquirer Tuesday night. "But we were not furnished a copy of his program. Anyon cagbigayin man nalang kasi till of a sudden, there was already a contract signing."

Rish, who has already submitted the Serbian's CV, assured the BCAP that Toroman is still working on the program after familiarizing himself with the Philippine setting.

"Like Toroman said, every program is unique," Rish said. "What worked in Iran is not necessarily the program that will be used in the Philippines. It needs to be adjusted according to our culture, player makeup and environment. As soon as it will be finished, it will be discussed with the appropriate and necessary groups."

Cedell P. Tapao

Moying backs SBP on Serbian choice

By Jose Navarro

TURBAT NOT SIT WELL WITH THE BASKETBALL Coaches Association of the Philippines (BCAP) but the choice of Serbian coach Rajko Toroman as national team program director is a significant step forward, basketball Confederation (FIBA) Secretary-general of Hiba-Asia (formerly Asian Basketball Confederation), stressed that the RP men's team improved dramatically when American coach Ron Jacobs called the shots.

Jacobs, who, as chief assistant of the Mad Ball to Control Consolidated basketball squad led the national team to several international accolades in the 80s built on a steady stream of young children and naturalized players.

"We revolutionized the game of basketball in this country," said Marcelino, a long-time executive committee of the Basketball Association of the Philippines when the Federation sets still in charge of running international team.

"The knowledge and coaching style of coach Ron eventually rubbed off to the others as coaches and it improved the way we played the game," added Marcelino.

Jacobs led the under-19 national team to the 1982 Asian Youth Basketball Championship in which included players like former PBA standouts Hector Calma, Sunday Liu and Leo Austria, among others.

The American coach then added national players Jeff Hodge, Dennis Hill and naturalized-playing monster Arthur "Chip" Engelland to the pool along with Filipino hotshot Atoy Co-Ki and the core of Jacobs' under-19 squad that awarded for a handful of titles in the international scene.

"It is good for Philippine basketball, does give it a try" said Marcelino on the hiring of Toroman, a veteran international coach who led Iran to the Beijing Olympics this year after a 60-year hiatus.

Since 1983, no Filipino coach has ever won a major feature title for the national team.

The last national coach to do it the best coach in local basketball but we have yet to succeed," said Marcelino.

HANNY PACQUIAO (left) and Oscar De La Hoya make their way to the press conference during a recent press tour was the Staten of Liberty in New York. Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach said the press tour "is the last chance for the public to catch the Filipino before the fight. Roach said he'll hang to 'Wild Card' gym closed to the public as Pacquiao prepares for his Dec. 2 match against De La Hoya. AP/PHOTO

Pacman's main weapon will be speed–Roach

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DRASTIC TIMES CALL FOR DRASTIC measures.

Trainer Freddie Roach will close the doors of his famed Wild Card Gym to keep away distractions as Manny Pacquiao prepares for his Dec. 2 multi-million-dollar showdown against Oscar De La Hoya at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"Once the press tour is done, the gym is closing down," the outspoken trainer told boxingscene.com yesterday. "I'm closing the doors and I'm just going to concentrate on (the Pacquiao fight) and we'll be well prepared for the fight."

That is the first time the Hollywood gym will be off-limits to fans and even coaches from as Pacquiao usually entertains his followers at the venue while he works out.

Pacquiao and De La Hoya are in the middle of their six-city promo tour which will take them on Friday to Houston, home city of the football team Dynamo which is co-owned by the Golden Boy.

Roach added that he doesn't want any distractions to their training which many believe will be staged in the comfortable "Speed Hills."

"Here we are going to win that fight is that we're not going to put a lot of weight on and are our strength," said Roach. "Speed is how you win this fight. We have a great strategy and I know Oscar's weaknesses and we're going to take advantage of it."

Roach stressed Pacquiao's blazing comeback in the past seven years and he once served as De La Hoya's cornerstones when he lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in May last year in the highest grossing fight in history.

"That is going to be interesting because of my age," De La Hoya, 35, was quoted by the Boston Chronicle. "He is the younger guy, the younger fan. He's broke, but I have the experience.

"I have heard Freddy Roach said, 'if Oscar was 29 or 30, I would never take this fight.' So to me it's such motivation. There are the type of events that get me going, get me fired up. Because at this point of my career, I need something different to get me into that gym, to make me up at five in the morning to go see, to stay away from my family for two months and stay up in the mountains."

De La Hoya, 35, has a cubic at the high altitude San Bernardino mountains in Big Bear, California where he intends to finish his training camp, from Manuel Marquez's Hall of Fame former fiancée "Nadia" Raoudas.

Reformist offered harsh words through its interpreter. "Pacquiao has been called a name in the ring. Well, De La Hoya is going to stop that name. He is going to take him out of the ring and Manny Pacquiao is going to be over."

Aventajado laughs off 'Dream Team'

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTee chief Robert Aventajado yesterday laughed off reports of a "Dream Team" shaping up for the coming POC elections.

"Whoever thought of that should continue dreaming," Aventajado told the Inquirer.

He said there is no ongoing talk between Art Macapagal of shooting and incumbent president Peping Cojuangco for a possible tend-up.

Aventajado said Macapagal, who is being pitted against Cojuangco, is still in Europe, while he, on the other hand, is busy with his chores at Philsports Recreation where he is a top official.

"Who is taking things POC elections like it's the national polls?" said Aventajado. "Clearly those political operators have no place in our elections."

Aventajado also was reacting to reports that representatives from the Olympic and Olympiad camps were trying to forge an agreement that will have the presidential brother as chair under Cojuangco's ticket.

Aventajado is reportedly receiving candidacy Olympiad Jose Romeo Pacquiao by Monico Puentevella of weight lifting.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AVENTAJADO

CEREMONIAL PEELL Sabah Aventajado (2nd from right), president of the Sta. Lucia East Branch Bowling Association (Bowl) leads the ceremonial roll signaling the start of the year's Strike Open at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta, Rizal. Joining him in yesterday's kickoff rites are past Strike presidents (from left) Fred Martinez, Tobi Peruela, Jaojao Uy, Ray Pacheco and Ginnie Ramirez. The qualifying games will be held until Oct. 15, with the finals on Oct. 21 and 22.

Slopitch resumes today

SUITER TRADE PERA PAMALA and Cebuana Lhuillier try to maintain their grip of top spot when they clobber Cinderella-headed team in the Manila Baptist Softball league at the Rizalite Sports Complex in Pasig City.

The defending champion Pera Pamalas does not for their fifth and ninth victory when they battle BYOB La Salle in the day's opener at 8 a.m. before returning to the field for their 11 a.m. date with former of Los Baños.

Cebuana, holder of a 4-0 card, is expected to have in hands full against Cantabang (3-1) at 2 p.m. and Mavicles (3-1) at 5:30.

The defending titleist roster to a four straight win by mangling winless Sta. Rosa, 10-4, and erstwhile nemesis Cantabang, 13-6, both last Sunday, a four notched by the Cebuanos, who dumped PLIA-BTS, 20-7, and the former Rigets, 7-6.

Today's games: today pit Bottom against BYOB at 9:30 a.m.

Coach E hoop clinics slated

THE COACH E BASKETBALL School will hold modules starting this month at Cubao Elks on Oct. 11, San Pedro Sidelines on Oct. 14, The Zone by Rockwell on Oct. 15 and Xavier School on Oct. 16.

International Basketball Academy (IBA) head Jerry Narag said the program designed by PBA champion coach Eric Altamirano is primarily composed of fundamentals and shot training.

The module, which includes ayumanggi time and life values among skills prepare emphasis of dribbling and shooting drills, is taught by our instructor for every five students.

For details, call 6341135 (telefax) and 09217362639 or at the philsbyvideo.com and www.coach-e.com.

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CAMBODIA QUALIFIERS

Booters toughen up for AFF

By Cedell P. Tapao

A PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL TEAM FORMED in haste will undergo toughening up in Bangkok in preparation for the Asean Football Federation Cup qualifiers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The RP booters, handpicked by coach Jose Caballero, are holding camp in Los Baños, Laguna, before leaving for Bangkok on Oct. 9, said Philippine Football Federation president Mari Martinez.

The AFF qualifying tournament, which will also host Laos, Timor Leste, Brunei and host Cambodia, is set Oct. 17 to 22 in Phnom Penh.

Martinez said the RP booters will train and play friendly matches with reputable teams the Thailand Premiere League and the Thailand Under-23 team.

Despite the impending absence of Filipino-British brothers Phil and James Younghusband, Martinez is confident that the national team still manage the success of the 2004 RP squad which advanced after posting three wins in the qualifiers held in Bangkok City.

The RP brothers, led by skipper Ronnie Caligdong and top defender Aly Borromeo, are expected to be backed up by foreign-based players like the Greatwich brothers Chris, Phil and Steven, Fulham FC reserve Neil Etheridge, Andre Del Rosario, Binay Banares and Chad Gould.

Martinez is also hoping to have Filipino-Dutch forty Lozano, a regular with MVV Andrea in the Eredisi first division.

Sunday SPORTS

Red Sox clip Angels' wings; Rays go 2-0

LOS ANGELES—JOSEPH BLASTED A TWO-run home run in the ninth inning to help Boston beat the Los Angeles Angels, 7-1, on Friday, giving the Red Sox a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five American League Division Series.

The Red Sox can advance to Game 4 of Division Series by completing a sweep of the Angels in Game Three on Sunday at Boston's Fenway Park.

In Friday's other American League Division Series game, the Tampa Bay Rays survived a shaky start by Scott Kazmir to beat the Chicago White Sox, 6-2, and forge a 2-0 lead in their series.

Dexter's steamin tied to cause field off reliever Francisco Rodriguez allowed the visiting Red Sox to remain perfect against the Angels in their last 11 playoff contests, while Jon Lester earned his postseason pennant, run rules by one team's relievers.

"It was a huge hit, (because) I felt like they had the momentum," Dexter told reporters.

Dexter was making just his fourth start in the last 40 games due to a lower back strain.

"It's nice to be out there and participate," he added.

The Angels fell behind 5-1 but rallied to tie the game at 5-5 in the eighth inning before Dexter relievers Jonathan Papelbon tossed a hitless final two innings, allowing one unearned run, to snuff out hopes of a comeback behind victory.

Boston starter Daisuke Matsuzaka battled his way through five innings, logging 138 pitches and allowing three runs. The Japanese pitcher, who won 15 games in the regular season, had to negotiate past a few jams before leaving with a 5-3 lead.

"That's the ultimate righteous," Boston manager Terry Francona said of his pitcher's performance. "He doesn't give in, he finds a way to make pitches."

Jason Bay continued to make his first postseason experience a memorable one, delivering a three-run home run to Boston's four-run first inning.

The Red Sox left fielder, acquired in a trade by way of Pittsburgh on July 31, homered for the second game in a row and finished 3-for-5.

"A lot of people ask me whether I'm nervous, but you just try to use the experience. It helps you look in," Bay said.

It did not seem to help Los Angeles.

The Angels left six runners in scoring position during the contest, and have now lost three consecutive playoff games.

Mark Teixeira tied the score for the Angels with a sacrifice fly in the eighth. Jon Lester limited Juan Rivera to a bases-loaded opportunity on the table in the seventh.

Boston will send rest top starter Josh Beckett for Game Three. Beckett missed his Game One start due to a strained muscle in his side.

"The (series) ain't over until somebody wins three games," Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia said. "We have a challenge.

The only way to serve it is to go pitch by pitch, inning by inning." Reuters

BOSTON! Red Sox relief pitcher Jonathan Papelbon reacts after the final out of Game 2 of baseball's American League division series against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, California. The Red Sox won, 4-1, to take a 2-0 series lead against the Angels. AP

Choi grabs LPGA world golf lead

HALF MOON BAY, CALIFORNIA—MI YEON Choi of South Korea survived the changing wind and drizzling temperature along the Pacific Ocean to shoot a 1-under-par 71 Friday to lead the Samsung LPGA World Championship after two rounds.

Choi had a 4-under 140 total and a two-stroke lead over American Angela Stanford (72), Lorena Ochoa (71), Paula Creamer (74) and Seung Hee Kim (73).

Stanford's rare double eagle fueled into a huge boost for her to stay near the top of the leaderboard on a day where playing conditions were challenging for everybody.

A pair of double bogeys and a bogey on the 18th cost two-time defending champion Ochoa, who had a rough back nine after she began the day so well.

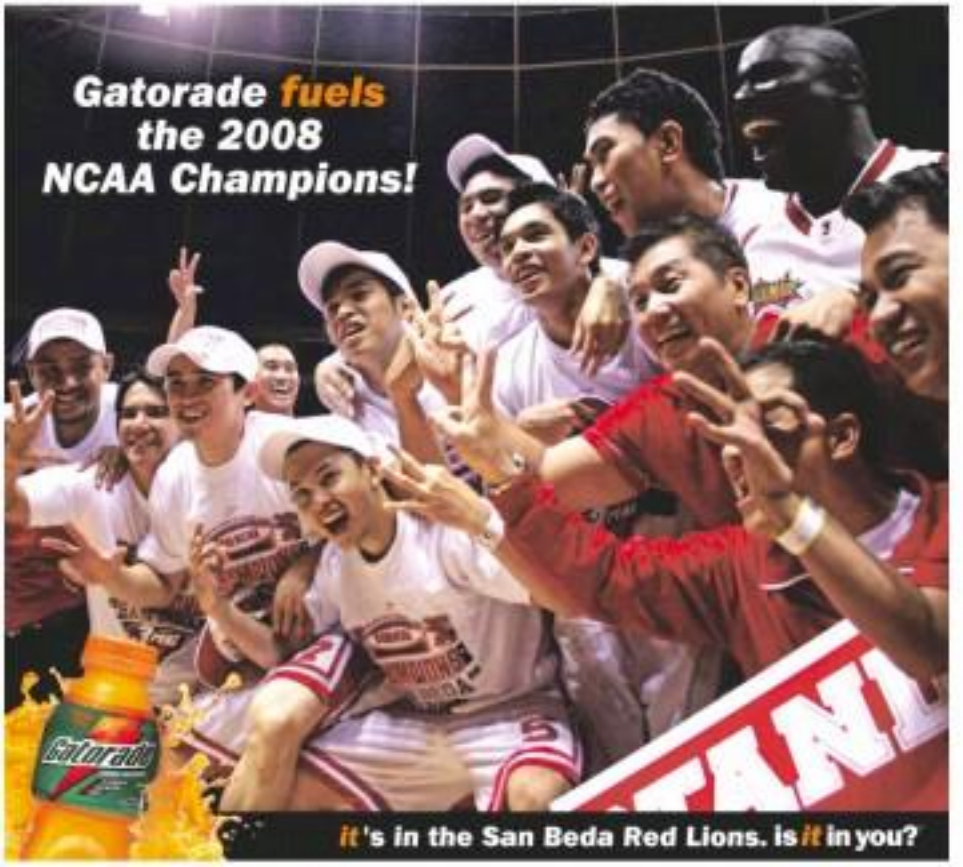
"It was really windy today and the weather got rainier as we got later into the round," Choi said through a translator. "At the two bogeys, I thought the game was getting away from me, but I looked at the scoreboard at the other players' scores and it gave me a calm confidence."

It took Ochoa all of three holes to find her touch. Facing them a few tough ones to lose the lead. Even her typically reliable long game deserted her on the back nine.

Ochoa birdied the seventh hole from 9 to 4-0 to notch 3 under, and Creamer got to 6-under before things became especially difficult. At that point, they look thought they might be able to dominate themselves a bit from the pack.

"You all saw the scores—they just kind of dropped," Creamer said. "It played hard. It was a definite test of golf. You hit and hope."

Stanford pulled off her double eagle on the par-5, 481-yard fourth hole—only the second one this year on the LPGA Tour and the 30th in tour history. AP



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Four Johnsons and a Richards

RYAN A. Richards, core president and CFO of Mead Johnson Nutritionals Philippines, holds a Baylor teddy bear

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

THAT THE FOUNDERS OF two major multinational companies even siblings is not a factor, but that their parents must have been mighty proud to have raised such achievers whose home appears in products used around the world.

Paul S. Richards, president and general manager of Mead Johnson Nutritionals Philippines, is referring to the brands Johnson & Johnson, a global manufacturer of healthcare products and pharmaceuticals largely known, for its baby care products.

Richards is now with Mead Johnson, having come from another company which, coincidentally, was also put up by a Johnson—EC Johnson—albeit no relation to the Johnson brothers.

The business bonded a bunch for Richards and his team recently when he candidly shared the plans of the company, which is thriving despite the economic woes in multinationals China and the hinted retrenchment in the U.S., as revealed by the Milk Code.

Richards, who joined Mead Johnson in January this year, is in town that an infant formula producing firm like Mead Johnson is actually pushing breastfeeding.

Breast milk is best

"One of our guiding principles is breastfeeding. Breast milk is best. It's a definitive for me. But clearly, we commercialize it at every point," Richards says.

He adds that is the case even that Mead Johnson's founder formulated the milk for a son who needed it, he says it is the company's role to provide an alternative to breastfeeding, if it is really needed.

Ramon shows there have been instances when mother's were unable to feed their baby because their milk was not compatible with the baby's needs. Thus, the infant formula was conceived by companies like Mead Johnson and Nestlé.

But over the years, giving infant formula even to newborns has become the norm, which is why there are now so many mothers breastfeeding their babies, preferring instead to give cow's milk.

This trend robs many babies of the benefits of mother's milk, particularly colostrum, or the first milk that has been proven to help babies grow up to be smarter and healthier.

Richards emphasizes, however, that there are circumstances that warrant the use of alternatives to mother's milk and Mead

FOR B2

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DA keeping farmers literate

Farm schools spreading in provinces

NIMBLY going down the rice terraces

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—GOVERNMENT has been assessing the quality of farm literacy with "non-conventional" farm schools spreading one in the provinces to help agricultural communities deal with a worsening world economy.

The Department of Agriculture presented its farm schools program before the Philippine Literacy Conference here on Thursday, offering it up as a model for increasing functional literacy in the countryside.

The DA-led farm schools program addresses problem-solving techniques in farming through more than 14,000 integrated participatory research (IPR) field farm schools, which have become the unofficial scholastic resource centers for provincial farmers, said Assistant Secretary, technical integrated pest management officer of the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE CORDILLERA: rice terraces and traditional way of farming

Given the recent scare over commodity and food prices, farmers are being taught to combine the economy each time they proceed to seed their fields, he said.

The 400,000 farmers, who went through the DA schools, are now "able to select, adopt, and apply knowledge-intensive technologies, and are resources more efficiently rather than simply using more," Rhiantico told NGOs/public and private school-to-field or Teachers Camp here.

The increasing cost of fertilizer and shipping fuel demands that farmers become "experts" to ensure food security, he said.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap recently announced that oil reserve of P90 when he launched a new drive for organic production as part of the country's food security agenda.

But what drives education in the IPM farm days is the way DA promoted pest management, Rhiantico said.

The national IPM program was introduced as an extension service in 1993, by former President Fidel Ramos primarily to campaign for a reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farms.

But the government has discovered the new methodologies offered by these "field schools," based on the success pointed recently by various international

DA-BPPMO RU

From planting the seeds to the shelves

WHAT STARTED AS AN APOLOGIES program for the youth of North Cotabato has grown into a nationwide pro-biodynamic farming and trading enterprise spanning most of Central Mindanao.

The Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Development Inc. (DBAFDI), years in store to the Diocesan Youth Program of Kidapawan, called the Don Bosco Diocesan Youth Center Inc. (DBDYCI), which was founded in 1980 in time for the International Year of the Youth.

But after more than a year of operations, the center's staff realized that the program lacked relevance in terms of concurrently responding to the needs and problems of the youth's fathers farmers, cultural and spiritual values were not enough.

Youth examinations conducted in 1985 and 1986 yielded that the full-time youth in the land to be addressed. Poverty, political insecurity, harassment, disunity were among youth. It was then that the center's staff resolved to address the problems via socio-economic development programs.

Agricultural extensions

The project the center had in mind was the development of a demonstration farm on organic farming—focusing on both production and research—to develop the skills, capability and confidence among farmers.

The first demonstration and food production farm was established in a 2.4-hectare property in Batasan, Mabalila, North Cotabato. The farm was started in 1986 via volunteer work among the youth and P50,000 seed money from the Diocese of Kidapawan. In 1989, it received assistance from HEKS of Switzerland, and in 1992 it was assisted by Misereor of Germany.

Around 7-8 Ascher farms was established in them, Kidapawan, in 1990 with support from Don Bosco Epiphany in Indiana.

With experience gained from organic farming, the youth felt ready for extension work. It began in 1988 in March 1990 through monthly sessions, and launched in that form in September 1993.

Having topped the services of part-time youth coordinator of parishes, the center started an elementary four programs headed by DBDI of director Training and extension, integrated research testing and development, youth camp and demonstration farm and seed banks.

Going to the parents

A critical point was reached in 1994 when the staff realized that targeting the youth in extension was not meaningful. It would become the youth's wish not limited to and were not part of decision-making in the homefields. There was also a demand from adult farmers to be included in the program. Thus, focus was shifted from youth to whole farming families.

"My son than development was not moving at rapidly as we envisioned because the youth had no decision on matters pertaining to the land," says Bukidnon "Steve" Lantilla, DBAFDI assistant director and general manager of Don Bosco Development, one of the foundation's offshoot entities. "We realized that we needed to include the parents, the farmers or those who owned the land for the acceptance of the program to be met."

Biodynamic farming

A turning point in the organization came in October 1994 when it learned about biodynamic agriculture. After validating and experimenting with the new set of methods, it began to introduce them to farmers. Then in 1995 and 1996, there was a significant growth of the number of farming families that became partners—from zero to 118 families.

In 1997-2000, the integrated Extension Program in Sustainable agriculture was implemented with co-financing support from the European Commission and DGS of Austria. The target was 1,175 farming families. But by the end of the project, more than 1,300 farming families joined from the project.

A second phase was implemented. The first targeting 5,000 farming families. By the end of the project in 2003, more than 3,300 farming families benefited from the program.

Today, with the support of DBA and ABA from Austria, the organization is still at the forefront of Sustainable Agriculture interventions, specifically on the promotion of biodynamics in agriculture, targeting 5,000 farming families, or at least 5 percent of the total agricultural cropland of the province of Cotabato.

"Although our demonstration farms were initially in upland areas, we are sure that, eventually, it was more lowland farmers," Lantilla says. "That's why we expanded to lowland farming communities."

Focus in five demonstration farms in Mindanao, DBSFDI has expanded to Iligan and Kidapawan and even beyond North Cotabato. It is now in Sarella, South Cotabato, where its methodology is the flagship agricultural program of the local government.

It has also expanded to Bilaspur, Ilocos Sur. There it values its program even won a Galing Pook Award.

From purely youth-oriented activities, its programs now cover the whole range of agricultural extension services. Education in organic/biodynamic agriculture, technology transfer, seeds development and distribution, provision of small and training of organized implementation, provision of seeds and marketing.

Proven seeds to shelves

The foundation aimed its strategy "From Seeds to Shelves" to cover the chain of the entire agricultural system.

"We realized that training is not enough, production is not enough," Lantilla says. "We had to cover the entire chain...from seeds to shelves—to make our support more encompassing."

This commitment to completing the cycle is manifested in the foundation's establishment of its selling outlets. It now has four in Davao, Kidapawan, Iligan and Midsayap.

There, outlets, along with other organizations' buyers—government office like Pag-Ibig and SSS, banks and other CSOs/PONs—source from 700 to 1,300 bags a month. This is more than enough to serve its farmers' annual production of 8,000 to 11,000 sacks of organic rice from two harvest periods in a year.

While production is huge, the output is still not enough to cover nearby consumers, so the foundation is currently realized to just sell in Mindanao.

"Our strategy is to saturate first the local Mindanao market," Lantilla adds. "We have orders from Luzon from time to time when there's surplus, but frankly, we don't even have enough production to go outside Central Mindanao."

To boost its marketing capabilities, the foundation established its marketing arm—Bio Dynamics Cooperative. An offshoot of its Extension Volunteering Services program, the cooperative assembles its farmers' products under its own Bio Dynamic brand.

PDAP enters the picture

The Philippine Development Assistance Programme (PDAP) helped its Canadian counterpart, Don Bosco, was "discovered" by PDAP when it conducted a survey of CSOs involved in organic farming/sustainable agriculture in support of its DSBM Diversified Rural Industries and Market Enhancement Program.

"PDAP came at a time when our were already seriously thinking of how to sustain our programs when donors eventually leave," Lantilla says. "We felt that we needed to build sustainability because the farmers already depend on our programs."

Through the DSBM Program, PDAP provided funds for capital expenditures and production. It also gave technical assistance and enhanced capability of the staff and beneficiaries. PDAP also provided assistance on marketing—linked the foundation to donors, financing sources and other government agencies.

Funding-wise, PDAP extended to Don Bosco a P1-million loan for the purchase of a grain inventory, and a P4.5-million loan for marketing capital. It has also passed the way for loans from cooperatives (P20-million and P30-million), which the foundation will use for mortgage redemption, marketing capital and credit provision.

"PDAP helped open the minds of our farmer beneficiaries to the entrepreneurial approach," Lantilla adds. "Before, farmers were averse to loans, they were afraid to invest. Now, they welcome loans as a way to grow their production, their business."

As a result, there has been a marked improvement in the lives of farmers. Although quantitative data still needs to be gathered, Lantilla said that farmers are increased harvests and enjoy better living conditions.

"For us, seeing that farmers have been able to pay their loan obligations, buy appliances and furnishings, do some home improvement, send their children to school is enough indication that the interventions are succeeding, are sticking down to the ultimate beneficiaries," Lantilla says.

Other socio-economic indicators, such as better soil quality, are also evident. There is a gaining and catching, and increasing numbers of advocates for organic and biodynamic agriculture have been noted.

On an organizational level, PDAP's interventions have enabled it to more "financially independent" and "sustainable" in its operations, so much so that expansion is now openly talked about.

The foundation plans to enter into mortgage redemption, whereby it will finance re-acquisition of lands mortgaged by farmers, to increase its total beneficiaries to around 4,000 to 2,500 hectares, and that income generation.

It is also working to convert all available property to organic. At present, 1,200 hectares produce organic rice while the remaining 1,200 hectares still are chemical-based farming of the land.

Also, the foundation plans to introduce new technologies for processing cacao, banana and coconut oil.

All these initiatives seek ultimately linked to the market. Structures are enough. Credit is not enough. It is an entire cycle. The market decisions, and we should move accordingly or else all our initiatives will go to naught."

Four Johnsons and a Richards

From page B1

Johnson wants to be there to meet their need.

On the technician score, he assures the public that Mead Johnson's milk comes only from Australia and that the formulation of its products complies with Mead Johnson's strict standards.

Unique market

The 47-year-old Richards has only been in the country for a few months and he finds the Philippines quite a unique venue for Mead Johnson.

It is the second largest in Asia next to China, the fourth largest in the world and is the second-fastest growing market for Mead Johnson.

Further, while there are usually only two major brands of Mead Johnson products sold in other countries, in the Philippines, there are four dominant brands.

But he says that risk is because in other countries, the products that were pushed were the premium lines. Here in the Philippines, it is the affordable brand—Lactum—that is doing well.

Other international brands are essential," he says, adding that the Lactum model will soon be followed in Malaysia.

Mead Johnson has a manufacturing complex in the Philippines that is operating at full capacity. It mainly services the local market, but it also exports milk to Indonesia.

Richards adds though the plant is currently operating on a 24-hour basis, on days a week, three seven. Largely because of "mainland roaming issues" brought on by the drought in Australia.

With regard to price, Richards says Mead Johnson is earning margins for Rich, and will ensure a more certain marketing line for its baby products.

Richards' current job is like going around half circle. Although he spent most of his career with SC Johnson, a household chemicals manufacturer, his first job was with Brooke Bond Food Ltd.—a subsidiary of Unilever.

He is also of a Ford Process Engineer graduate from the Polytechnic University of Technology.

He spent five years with Brooke before moving to Getz Bros. Co., Ltd., Europe's number one producer of fruit juice and juice drinks, before going to SC Johnson Wax and SC Johnson where he stayed 17 years.

He is into diving and wants to try out the dive spots in the country with his wife. He has two kids.

Starting–The first step toward success

SALESPERSONS ARE COACHED in the power of a first impression. Hunter drones hours to opening statements. Journalists are admonished never to bury the lead. Aphorists practice saving use of the starting blocks. Intercessors are taught the importance of their initial handshake with a potentialed employee.

In leadership, as in many other areas of life, the beginning often determines the end. False starts and weak foundations are by no means. Here are five insights to help you start successfully.

How to start successfully

1. Start with yourself.

As Gandhi famously said, "Be the change you want to be in the world." By starting with yourself, you build the self-confidence needed to attract and inspire others. Leading yourself well is a precursor to accomplishment, and accomplishment earns respect.

In order to make deposits in the lives of followers, you have to have a beginning balance in your leadership account. Start funding by paying your morals—to yourself and to prospective followers.

2. Start early.

Sadly many leaders squander their early years and spend the rest of their careers trying to make up for lost time. In leadership, as with finances, decisions made early in life accrue the most interest. When we choose poorly or establish bad habits, we pay countless in debt.

Then, we must not only repay our loan, but the interest on them as well. On the flip side, when we invest our time and effort wisely from a young age, we reap the benefits of compounding interest on our leadership.

Specifically, when should leaders start? What areas should take precedence at the beginning? From my experience there are 10 things you should do as a leader prior to exchanging an:

1. Know yourself.
2. Settle your family life.
3. Determine your priorities.
4. Develop your philosophy of life.
5. Get physically fit.
6. Learn your trade.
7. Pay the price.
8. Develop solid work habits.
9. Prepare for the future.
10. Find a mentor for your life.

If you're over 40, it's never too late to make improvements. Unfortunately, an old dog doesn't really learn new tricks. Unclung years of misplaced priorities and poor self-management will take many of them.

3. Start small.

Don't expect to understand what it takes to get to the top, just take the next step.

Think big, but don't small. Trying to accomplish too much too fast, and hoops you from the beginning thrown by the magnitude of the vision in front of you. When you accomplish a small step, you gain confidence that you can accomplish the next step.

The success found in starting small comes when you diligently apply the lessons you learn. As my friend, Dirk Bruce, has said, "The greatest gap is between knowing and doing." Commit to mastering the details under your control, and follow through when opportunities given are overwhelm.

4. Start with the end in view.

"Most people spend more time planning when growing shopping than designing their future."—Tom James, "Personal Development Coach"

To start with the end in view, you need energy and direction. Let your passion pull you forward, and let your planning give you guidance. In order for passion in life a driving force in your life, you must identify a purpose for you life. To locate your purpose, consider your strengths, interests and past successes. What roles do you find most enjoyable? What things you the greatest sense of satisfaction? Determine the areas that make you feel energized as you get your career toward them. Also, find people who have been successful in the area of your interest. Listen to them and search their lives.

For planning to give you direction, you need to settle down goals. Goals lend structure to your purpose, and they keep you heading "within the lines." They focus your actions and move you toward your overall vision.

5. Start now.

No exaggerate yesterday, even minutes ago or one calendar day. Don't wait until it's too late before you begin to pursue the visions implanted in your heart. Make each day matter for your purpose; you'll be surprised when you and up after stringing together a few months of successful days.

I'll leave you with one final thought:

"How wonderful it is that we need not wait a single minute before starting to improve ourselves and our world."—Anne Frank

Review: Five steps to starting successfully

1. Start with yourself.
2. Start early.
3. Start small.
4. Start with the end in view.
5. Start now.

(For information on John Maxwell's Leadership seminars, please e-mail us at bizgov.ph@gmail.com. Bob MAINELL GO to ABS-CBNnews to get daily ABS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

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DA keeping farmers literate

Print page B2

southern like the international harmers of Bishopstrd Control, Bacnotan said.

He said farms in the tradition became notorious for using "expensive, old-style" decade ago, but recent studies revealed a drastic behavioral change among farmers.

"They used to spray their cabbage farms [with chemical pesticides] for 20 times each day, but now they only spray them times," he says.

According to a BA matric Pinausis conducted on Thursday, chemical use through out the country dropped by 35.3 percent due to the farm school projects, and increased organic-based farming techniques by 103.5 percent.

He said the DA's solution was to allow farmers to make their own solutions.

Overseas from technology transfer programs were cancelled behind their realist, he said. "Farmers [need to] reach the same predetermined advice [about crop health and farm profitability] regardless of the diversity of the agro-ecological environments," he said.

The prevailing 494 farm schools, however, kept farmers in specialized agricultural fields to plant their own crops, using new technologies, or they can "gather their own data, make their own decisions, and create their own working networks," Bnaotan said.

He said the subjects taught there were hardly initial because nations introduced concepts like plant health, water management, soil nutrition, and disease surveillance.

Because the farmers need a vehicle means to plant and harvest crops, the schools offer them "experiential learning," and a means for experimentation within the planting season, he said.

The farm schools have since extended their curriculum to include child nutrition as well as social infrastructure.

Bnaotan said schools no longer introduce new technologies to farmers but have become centers where farmers discuss and design technologies that suit their technical conditions.

Singapore's clothing label expands in metro Cebu

AFTER CREATING A MORE IN MANILA, one of Singapore's fashion brands landed in another fashionable city: Cebu.

Ivra, the clothing label for women, known for its versatility hopes to make it big in the metro through Bridgestone Distribution Inc., a Cebu-based retail and garment industry in Cebu. The company recently got a franchise with Ivra Philippines, opening its first boutique in Cebu last August.

It started with a shopping spree in Singapore. But aside from Bridgestone Distribution Inc. owner Glen Uy, he has been eyeing stores, giving them the idea that Ivra might sell by creating the same impact in their Cebu hometown.

According to them, the brand has a very good product quality and "its addictive to the good life quality. Its styles are suitable for the Asian figure as well."

Its styles are also suited to the local climate since Ivra's Singapore and Philippine counterpart considers. Bridgestone Distribution Inc. also saw Ivra as complementing its other retail shops promoting women fashion, bra, apparel and, soon, eyewear. In a franchisee, Bridgestone is follow store, check on the store's look, brand and display merchandise, and performance to be sold.

"Although there are many fashion brands in the market, we are optimistic that Ivra will take off in the Philippines due to the fact that it is an asian brand." Coming from Bridgestone Distribution Inc., an expert in the clothing business, it's very likely that Ivra will create a stir in Cebu's fashionista market.

Ivra's stores in Cebu is located on SM City Cebu and at the 2nd Floor, New Expansion Building of Ayala Center, Cebu.

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MODEL	YEAR	BODY NO.	COLOR	MILEAGE	TERM	SRP
BMW 318i	2006	WBAPK73506A[illegible]	Mineral White	15,000	5 YEARS	P 1,750,000
BMW 318i Executive	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	12,000	5 YEARS	P 1,850,000
BMW 320i Executive	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	10,000	5 YEARS	P 1,950,000
BMW 320i Executive	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	5,000	5 YEARS	P 2,050,000
BMW 320i Executive	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	8,000	5 YEARS	P 1,950,000
BMW 320d	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	15,000	5 YEARS	P 2,050,000
BMW 320d	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	2,000	5 YEARS	P 2,150,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	18,000	5 YEARS	P 2,250,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	5,000	5 YEARS	P 2,350,000
BMW 325i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	20,000	5 YEARS	P 2,150,000
BMW 325i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	3,000	5 YEARS	P 2,250,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	15,000	5 YEARS	P 2,250,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	4,000	5 YEARS	P 2,350,000
BMW 325i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	22,000	5 YEARS	P 2,150,000
BMW 325i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	6,000	5 YEARS	P 2,250,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	12,000	5 YEARS	P 2,250,000
BMW 325i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	3,000	5 YEARS	P 2,350,000
BMW 325i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	25,000	5 YEARS	P 2,150,000
BMW 325i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	8,000	5 YEARS	P 2,250,000
BMW 330i	2006	WBAPK73506A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	30,000	5 YEARS	P 2,450,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	18,000	5 YEARS	P 2,550,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	5,000	5 YEARS	P 2,650,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	28,000	5 YEARS	P 2,550,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	7,000	5 YEARS	P 2,650,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	20,000	5 YEARS	P 2,650,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	4,000	5 YEARS	P 2,750,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	32,000	5 YEARS	P 2,650,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	9,000	5 YEARS	P 2,750,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	22,000	5 YEARS	P 2,750,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	5,000	5 YEARS	P 2,850,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	35,000	5 YEARS	P 2,750,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	10,000	5 YEARS	P 2,850,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	25,000	5 YEARS	P 2,850,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	6,000	5 YEARS	P 2,950,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	38,000	5 YEARS	P 2,850,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	11,000	5 YEARS	P 2,950,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	28,000	5 YEARS	P 2,950,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	7,000	5 YEARS	P 3,050,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	40,000	5 YEARS	P 2,950,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	12,000	5 YEARS	P 3,050,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	30,000	5 YEARS	P 3,050,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	8,000	5 YEARS	P 3,150,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	42,000	5 YEARS	P 3,050,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	13,000	5 YEARS	P 3,150,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	32,000	5 YEARS	P 3,150,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	9,000	5 YEARS	P 3,250,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	45,000	5 YEARS	P 3,150,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	14,000	5 YEARS	P 3,250,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	35,000	5 YEARS	P 3,250,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	10,000	5 YEARS	P 3,350,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	48,000	5 YEARS	P 3,250,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	15,000	5 YEARS	P 3,350,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	38,000	5 YEARS	P 3,350,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	11,000	5 YEARS	P 3,450,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	50,000	5 YEARS	P 3,350,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	16,000	5 YEARS	P 3,450,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	40,000	5 YEARS	P 3,450,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	12,000	5 YEARS	P 3,550,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	52,000	5 YEARS	P 3,450,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	17,000	5 YEARS	P 3,550,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	42,000	5 YEARS	P 3,550,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	13,000	5 YEARS	P 3,650,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	55,000	5 YEARS	P 3,550,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	18,000	5 YEARS	P 3,650,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	45,000	5 YEARS	P 3,650,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	14,000	5 YEARS	P 3,750,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	58,000	5 YEARS	P 3,650,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	19,000	5 YEARS	P 3,750,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	48,000	5 YEARS	P 3,750,000
BMW 330i M Sport	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Black Sapphire	15,000	5 YEARS	P 3,850,000
BMW 330i	2007	WBAPK73507A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	60,000	5 YEARS	P 3,750,000
BMW 330i	2008	WBAPK73508A[illegible]	Titanium Silver	20,000	5 YEARS	P 3,850,000

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Kinnes San Juan

A US magazine reports that Brangelina could have purchased Noel Cruz's 'Angelina Jolie' doll from eBay auction

Pinoy artist dolls up 'Angelina,' 'Nicole,' 'Keira'

By Rowena C. Borgo

FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS now, Noel Cruz has been creating portraiture of Hollywood celebrities as dolls. An American magazine recently reported his Angelina Jolie doll could have been purchased by the actress and partner Brad Pitt on eBay, an online auction and shopping website.

The doll has been featured in magazines in the United States and United Kingdom.

One eBay bidder reportedly bought one Jolie doll for $3,350. The doll came with two wigs and hand-painted, oral-sensually enhanced breasts and sachaic tattoos, which can be added by Cruz for $15-$50 each depending on the tattoo. Another bidder reportedly purchased another Jolie doll for $2,000.

Cruz has also done the dolls of Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Tobey Maguire, Daniel Craig, Christopher Reeve, Reba Kingsley, Kirsten Dunst, Nicole Kidman, Celine Dion, Annie Lennox, Julie Andrews, Vivien Leigh and many more.

The starting bid for Cruz's 16-inch vinyl celebrity dolls is $500. However, they always end up selling for $600 and above.

"I've always been fascinated by faces. It can convey different emotions. And the eyes are, indeed, the windows to one's soul," says the 329-based Filipino artist in an online interview. "But, a beautiful portrait should go beyond realism. It should tell a story."

Copying the likeness of a famous person starts with scanning the doll's factory paint. With nothing more than brushes, acrylics and markers, Cruz transforms the manufactured doll into an unbelievably true-to-life likeness of a celebrity.

"The concept is essentially the same as painting on a flat canvas, but with a doll's face, you have a three-dimensional canvas and the techniques involved in making such portraits are different," Cruz says.

According to Cruz, a self-taught artist, the doll's face is approximately 2½ inch by 2 inch. Therefore, everything has to be tiny in scale: paint brush, strokes and facial features.

"Repainting a doll's face requires more precision and accuracy (than painting on a flat canvas) as when the doll is photographed up close, its features will look clean and crisp."

For his session, Cruz utilizes Gene Marshall dolls produced by Ashton Drake Galleries, Tyler and Sydney by Robert Tonner and Fondalle Mint. These dolls, Cruz says, "have subtly molded facial features that allow more versatility to painting different personalities."

Cruz buys the clothes from the doll manufacturers for $20-$75. Hair styling is "as intricate as face painting. A poorly styled hair can ruin the doll altogether."

Initial work

He painstakingly pays (re)issue detail to, as his art (that it takes him three days to finish a doll's painting and styling. This does not include photographing the doll for eBay.

PHOTO

NICOLE Kidman

A season for grand weddings

IT HAS BEEN A SEASON FOR RISING marrying down the aisles of chapels, churches, cloisters and even the cathedral.

Tippy Sala and Mikkel Gutierrez chose the Chapel of St. Jude in Camp Lapu-Lapu for their morning wedding rites on Sept. 20. She is the daughter of Juan B. Sala and Josie Milino Sala; he is the son of Ramon Gutierrez and Anna Hamilton Gutierrez of Manila.

CEBU CEBU

Leizel Picornell

Tippy's maid, Rosebud Salo was among the sponsors. Her other sponsors were Dr. and Mrs. Ramon Gutierrez, great-grandparents; Dolia Carmen Bolrigmid de Martinez, to have her bridal bouquet on the altar of the Virgin Mary.

Rowing Filipinians

The wedding of Melanie Uychaco, daughter of Francisco Uychaco and Marina Bolrigmen Uychaco, to Cesar Jesus III took place at the imposing Redemptorist church. He is the son of Cesar Alexander Syme and Felisa Jesus.

The bride's gown has an identical twin, Mariechu Rodriguez-Calderon, who flipped among the bridesmaids dressed in flowing Filipiniana in the rest of the ladies. Of course, many unusual ties for Manilas, and vice versa, including relatives.

The reception that followed was held in the Uychaco family's White South Resort in Mactan, at dusk. Pinky Chuang had created a table a fabulous where candles dripped from a rowing oars, and crystal lights blinked like a million fireflies in the breeze.

Ayra Rica Santiago, daughter of Melissa and Nicolo Santiago, was married to Charles Robinson, son of Nanemeleon and Dolores Robinson, at the bride's parish in Mandaue City,—the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in which the council Cloisite Santiago, the bride's aunt, is most devoted.

Lots of friends and relatives attended, and then hied to the ballroom of the Cebu Country Club for the reception and grand rosary-making.

IVA and Cia Bolrigmi

Relaxed bride

It was a Sunday wedding for Farjana Gretchen Alfaech Fernandez, daughter of Sondra Geraldine Schuch Fernandez, and Rolando de Leon IV, son of Rolando de Leon III and Rosario Abdi Ibanez de Leon, at the Cebu Yacht Club.

Heading the principal sponsors were Joel Edgar and Chesby Muñez, radiant over the fact that the bride is her sister, and the groom, his nephew. The reception and dinner that followed was in the ballroom of Casino Español de Cebu.

The National Shrine of St. Joseph in Mandaue City was the setting for the wedding of Michelle del Gallego to Tomás Ngo. She is the daughter of Miguel Jesus del Gallego and Maria Elena Galan del Gallego; he is the son of Cecilia Almendras Aguinaldo and Alexander Ngo Ike.

Michelle was a most relaxed bride, having said from the start it would all just fall into place, which it did. Her bonded Abigail Ngo for the dress and other details, and her sister Mona Lisa del Gallego Jungar for coordinating the dazzling evening's dinner.

The celebration was at the Salon de Espana of Casino Español de Cebu where a scrumptious dinner was served, followed by all night dancing to the Freudenreich Band.

Dream interpretation

Ian Reyes and Cia Robinot settled in Texas where they met, fell in love, and got married in a civil ceremony. Their dream came true when the pleasant religious wedding took place in Cebu's Metropolitan Cathedral amid abundant splendor.

Ian is the daughter of Florentino Reyes and Stefina Jesus Corbalán City; he the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cayetano Balayon Sr. They looked radiant as they received family and friends (some from the US) for the reception at Hacienda Bay in Mactan, which is owned by Ian's family.

Manny Gonzalez, who masterminded Hacienda Bay was around. He had supervised the celebration and surpassed himself by a darling show. The event's spectacles were laid on the buffet, and the evening was capped by a grandiose fireworks display, visible as far as Bohol.

The sacred Heart Parish was filled to capacity for the wedding of Nina Kaleng, daughter of Emil Bokaing and Jocelyn Quiamo Bokaing, to Ramon Mina, son of Belmonte Mina and Helen Frances Mina. It was an event that had the magic touch of Teresita Mendezona. Also the church rites, there was a reception for 500 guests at the grand ballroom of Cebu Grand Convention Center.

AT THE BALUSTRADE—weddings in Plantation Bay: Jessa Mae la Margarita, Teresita Reyes Forwood, Lon-Lon Gonzales Conaco (standing) Manny Gonzales and Federico Reyes Jr.

Experience romantic Baguio the easy way

BAGUIO CITY HAS LONG been acknowledged as the country's most favorite romantic hideaway. Couples of every stripe would surely enjoy spending time together exploring this city's natural beauty.

Manny and Imelda del Prado, who just had their wedding at The Mansion in Magsaysay recently, said it was the perfect honeymoon for their wedding photos.

"What made it special was that many of our guests and even their kids stayed here in Baguio in a while, so they took the opportunity to also reminisce about the good old days. Everyone was in a very festive and happy mood throughout the wedding weekend," said the couple.

The newlyweds enjoyed their stay so much that they told their overall definitely consider Baguio for their next date, or even a second honeymoon. "We also plan on bringing our future children to Baguio so they, too, would experience the place as we have experienced it."

Imelda added that Baguio also provides a host of choices in terms of accommodations, entertainment and places to eat. Budget hotels, like Mount Ivy Inns 4 Suites, are just a person's money from the four hotshots. Couples can also opt for more local fare, or they can have their choice of high-end restaurants—all within easy reach.

"Baguio food prices are significantly less expensive than Manila prices, so one could get much more for less. More importantly, it has a more romantic feel to it as well. Maybe because it's more to cuddle with your loved one when it's cooler," she said.

KEEP your honeymoon in the City of Pines.

For those in Metro Manila, the only hurdle in getting to Baguio itself. One could drive up to Baguio, but this would be a bit expensive. Driving to the city is long and tiring, and one would probably get there too exhausted to do anything.

However, this obstacle is easily handled by choosing to take a trip via Victory Liner's deluxe bus. One can even avail a whole bus to bring the whole wedding entourage and some guests to Baguio.

Choosing to go to Baguio via Victory Liner's deluxe bus makes the trip a breeze. Call Victory Liner bus commando up to 30 days before the trip and book reservations. Just give the ticket reservation agent the preferred departure date, time and the number of passengers, and leave name and contact number. The agent will then assign one more bus.

Be on the bus terminal to pay for and claim tickets at least two hours before the trip time so the reservation is not forfeited. Credit card payments are accepted.

Visit www.victoryliner.com.

Small Stories on Paying It Forward

Apart from being hospitable, Filipinos are also known for their generosity. Even with the hardships of life, there will always be something to share with! Good news, friends, neighbors, and even strangers.

We show our generosity through simple acts of random kindness like sharing food, giving alms, donating old clothes, helping clean and fix elderly's homes, however, there are a few who have opted to donate their generosity from mere acts of compassion to a total commitment to help poor children in need of education through child sponsorship.

Child sponsorship is a program that enables kind-hearted individuals and companies to donate cash for the education of children in charitable institutions. Child sponsorship gives the privileged children a chance to have a bright future while giving donors the wonderful opportunity to share their blessings by "paying it forward".

This is what volunteer Kenneth Danica Rosario has been witnessing for the past years as a child (left of World Vision's Bill Wagenveld).

World Vision is a Christian advocacy, relief, and development organization that helps transform the lives of the world's poorest children, their families, and communities by engaging in sustainable development programs, relief operations, and advocacy projects.

Kenneth tells the story of how World Vision child sponsors who are continuously making a big difference in the lives of less fortunate children.

The first sponsor was a childless couple. Kenneth appreciated them while they were praising for the World Vision books. They became interested in child sponsorship when they found out that they could be matched with their own child to whom the first good deed. "After a few years, they came back thanking us because their kindness was finally rewarded," Kenneth said.

The second sponsor was another pair whom Kenneth approached to offer child sponsorship. The couple had a small business to worry about but nevertheless sponsored one child and paid P5,400. After some time, they came back wanting to sponsor more children. Another successful business grew. "Now they are sponsoring up to ten children already."

The third sponsor was a mother whose son just died. At first she was hesitant to sponsor a child but was finally convinced when Kenneth showed her the picture folder of a child who loved to play basketball, much like her son. "She realized that it was a way for her to continue her daughter son."

The fourth sponsor was a businessman who was approached by World Vision volunteers while he was rushing to a meeting inside the mall. It all happened this business man took their offer only to get them off his back. But he was about to issue a check for P5,400 for a year of work by the image of a young boy or one of the picture folders they began to cry.

He told the volunteers the boy looked like his son who died the day before. "It was to God's way of telling me to help others as other my son's death, then give one but more children to sponsor."

Kenneth says that most of their "walk-in" sponsors from World Vision for the child sponsorship program because it paved the way for them to help other people, and in return, to receive more joy with the lives of their own children. "Sharing their blessings by paying it forward has been a very rewarding experience for them."

His thoughts came back to "paying forward" that PSBank has come up with the "Save It Forward" program.

Through "Save it Forward", peso savings, checking and dollar savings account holders can have a chance to sponsor the education of a poor child from World Vision. Under the winner's name, PSBank will pay for the completion of either the elementary or high school education of the beneficiary child.

Each "Save It Forward" winner will also win one of 100 one-year scholarships for school year 2009-2010 covering any level between grade school, high school or college for his child, a nephew or grandchild.

For more details on Save It Forward, call 845-0625/8680, email saveitforward@psbank.com.ph or log on to www.psbank.com.ph.

How celebrities share their blessings and Pay It Forward

"When people ask me why I am sponsoring child, I simply end down that it is very fulfilling. I think it is time for me to share my blessings to other people, especially children. The first time I met these children I really saw the love in their eyes. It made me feel like a real human being, that I am a part of their lives. That is why I am encouraging others to also sponsor a child now."

Christian Bautista
Singer

Christian Bautista is a proud World Vision sponsor of three children. He makes it a point to sponsor one additional child every year ever since he began his singing career three years ago.

Last year, Christian stepped a level raising concert for World Vision at the Music Museum dubbed "Christian Bautista Live!" with other general singers and a special performance by selected World Vision kids.

"Being a child sponsor and an advocate for World Vision has genuinely changed my life. It has made me more blessed and happier. I believe that every child's sponsorship is a chance of change children's lives, giving them a chance at a better future. I strongly believe that helping somebody finish school is a complete way of urging him to become a better person. What is important is not the number of children you support but how committed you are in sending them to school until they finish school."

Karen Davila
Broadcast Journalist
World Vision Goodwill Ambassador

Karen Davila promotes World Vision's child sponsorship on her radio and TV programs and has been instrumental in influencing the public as well as corporate groups and celebrities to become World Vision sponsors. Since 2003, she has been very active in joining various World Vision campaigns and activities.

In 2008, Karen was recognized as the first Filipino World Vision Ambassador of Goodwill for her significant contribution to the success of World Vision's most sponsorship initiatives.

The PSBank Save It Forward program

PSBank shares the spirit of child sponsorship and "paying it forward" by introducing its "Save It Forward" program.

Through "Save It Forward", peso savings, checking and dollar savings account holders can have a chance to sponsor the education of a poor child from World Vision. Under the winner's name, PSBank will pay for the completion of either the elementary or high school education of the beneficiary child.

Each "Save It Forward" winner will also win one of 100 one-year scholarships for school year 2009-2010 covering any level between grade school, high school or college for his child, a nephew or grandchild.

For more details on Save It Forward, call 845-0625/8680, email saveitforward@psbank.com.ph or log on to www.psbank.com.ph.

Zia is officially accepted by the father of the bride, Vice Mayor Dagar Balindong, with Sen. Pimentel, Brothers and Imam.

ROCARA Hotmag Tingting Dimaporo and Indira Dimaporo

HAPPA Dimaporo Balindong, the bride, and newly-elected second mayor of the District of Lanao del Sur Zia Alonto Adiong, the groom

Maranao wedding of the year

CHONA Cojangco

GOV. KHALID Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte

By Maurice Arcadio

ONE SUPER REASON most lovers Muslim weddings is their customs and traditions very like the groom submit to a tasteful, palengke.

Like other religious traditions, Muslim marriage customs are in four-with Islamic values.

In the Maranao tradition, the bride and groom are treated king and queen for a day.

The Zia Alonto Adiong-Bubong Dimaporo Balindong grand wedding at the posh Iligan International Sports and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City is a fine example of the Maranao tribe's rich culture and history. It's the Maranao Wedding of the Year, palengke.

Modesta, impersonations and poetry-poetry hand-me-ne Bobo met the diminutive, suave, sophisticated and good-looking counselor politician Zia by chance. Zia was with cousin Sahara Balindong, who is also the first cousin of Bubo Sumacot-ubod Zia if they were bound by some magic arrangements. He said, "Hardly, but it's also love at first sight." After that, romance was in the air.

"Zia is the youngest son of the late Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal Adiong Sr. and Hadja Norma Alonto Adiong, while Hadja Omaima M. Dimaporo. Her grandfather is the late political kingpin Mohammad Ali Dimaporo and Sultan Mohammad Naga Dimaporo at her mother's side and Sultan Pirong Balindong (her father's side. Zia is the grandson of Sen. Domocao Alonto and Princess Tarhata Alonto Lucman, and the youngest brother of Lanao del Sur Rep. Mamitri Adiong and ARMM Vice Gov. Hooda Alonto Adiong," the very same Ayo Gazette explained.

HAJOB Sinarun Dimaporo-Limbol

GOV. MAMINTAL Jesay of Sharif Kabunsuan

LARRY Balindong and Che Balindong

ARMM Vice Governor Hooda Adiong

ASSEMBLYMAN Jimi Bondoc

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan

Superbly decorated

The country club was superbly decorated. Tables were full of gorgeous flowers, dahlias.

The radiant bride Bobo looked divine in her simple but elegant wedding gown, which was enhanced by embroidered silver sequins and long veil delicately hand-embroidered. The groom wore Zia was in a classic-looking Tagalog.

There rehearsal and show friends were all excited. This know it was a memorable moment and the start of a great union between the Alonto and Dimaporo who are known in Lanao as "political rivals."

But noticed many of the guests behaved attentively to the speeches given by my good friends Gov. Bunchit Alonto Adiong and Hamid Dimaporo. Best wishes for a perfect union, palengke.

Leading the very, very important guests were Lanao del Sur First Lady Nelfa Bubo Adiong, and her children, antecedent, modest and sweet young lass, Che Escudero; gorgeous Chona Cojangco; Mariano 99; new Ayo Gazette; Mayor Eleazar Dimaporo; Lanao's Lanao Rep. Pangalian Balindong; Sultan Hamid; and Lady Dimaporo, ARMM Vice Gov. Hooda Alonto Adiong; Sharif Kabunsuan Acting Gov. Ibrahim Ibay; Mayors' League of Lanao del Sur headed by Mayor Mamitri Grande Sumanta and Usman Sumagapal, Jr.; Mayor Mondih Dimaporo with sister Khadija and Bubong Ambassador and Mrs. Abdulbary Alonto Sahara Balindong and Rohaida Alonto Adiong; Zia's close pals and cousins, Gai Blanko, Abadi III, Monde, Akmad Jesad L. Alonto, sister Alnaya Alonto and Abdul Rakim Adiong. Plus, lots of other notable/capable personalities from Marawi town.

To Hafsa and Zia, may Allah bless your beautiful life forever.

Cheers, palengke!

PUBLICIST Ayo Gazette and Bobo Sumacot-ubod

LEVACO del Sur Gov. Bunchit Alonto Adiong with wife Hadja Bubo and their children Mujam, Maisa and Mylaya

Nestlé Club Cooks Up "Pambaon" Treats for SM Advantage Members

To give mothers fresh and exciting ideas for their kids' school pambaon, SM Advantage recently treated its members to an exclusive cooking event hosted by the Nestlé Club. Held at the Julia Magg Kitchen (JMK) in the Nestlé Center in Rockwell, special recipes on school snacks and lunch were prepared before a very attentive audience.

With Chef Imelda Soto way over Pambaon Station recipes, kids will soon be enjoying healthier and more palatable pambaon dishes such as Pork Chop with Honey Glaze on Rice, Grilled Chicken Breast with Honey Mustard Sauce and Roasted Vegetables Panini, Thai Kiw Thong with Tuna and Corn Filling, Nestlé Fitness Choco-Scoop Lean Cookies, Delicious Nestlé Cream Cookies, and Strawberry Banana Milkshake. Surely, these delightful snacks will make any kid look forward to each school day!

SM Advantage continues to hold very timely and enjoyable events for their members as more exclusive cooking demos are coming their way! Members won't have second thoughts signing up for the forthcoming demo on Christmas treats - another request! Mix among moms and their kids!

The SM Advantage exclusive cooking event (Christmas Treats) is scheduled on Saturday, October 11, 2008, 2:00-5:00 pm at the Julia Magg Kitchen, Nestlé Center, Rockwell (across Powerplant Mall). For text reservations, please call the SM Advantage Hotline at (02) 830-9888.

As SM Advantage member Ariane Uy, (back to camera) Chef Imelda Soto is preparing a pambaon dish - Weight Light Healthy Yummy Treat that Strong animals with love and care Kitty.

JOHNNIE WALKER®

Strides into the Future

Johnnie Walker® launches the Black Label Diamond Scotch Whisky in a Limited Anniversary Edition to honour 100 years of the Striding Man

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of its iconic Striding Man, Johnnie Walker, the world's number one selling Scotch whisky has unveiled a special Black Label Limited Anniversary Edition collector's pack that is encased in a special Black Label Limited Anniversary Edition collector's pack that is encased in a special Black Label Limited Anniversary Edition collector's pack that is encased with the Striding Man using laser gold.

Making its world debut in Asia Pacific, the Black Label Limited Anniversary Edition pack is delivered in a sleek high gloss black bottle and is embellished with the Striding Man trade using laser gold to celebrate its century as an indelible icon of progress and quality.

Vivek Rampal, category director for whisky and reserve, Diageo Asia Pacific, said: "Since its creation in 1908, the Striding Man has become an instantly recognizable mark of exceptional quality, authenticity and progress. The Black Label Limited Anniversary Edition pack is a celebration of the unwavering spirit and uncompromising values embraced by the brand over the past 100 years. It is the perfect gift for any friend or business associate and a significant keepsake for any whisky connoisseur."

Originally established in 1908 by renowned nominal satirist and illustrator Tom Browne on the back of a lunch menu, the striding top-hatted figure has since personified the Johnnie Walker brand and become one of the last century's most recognizable icons. The Striding Man has matched an through the era, under the helm of several artists, to be portrayed as an adventurous and cosmopolitan gentleman. In 1988, in conjunction with the launch of the "Keep Walking" campaign, the Striding Man was switched to walk from left to right.

The Striding Man has changed with the times over the past century but the original spirit of progress and sophistication remains as the figure surges forward to take on the next hundred years.

The Johnnie Walker Black Label Limited Anniversary Edition pack will be available in Duty Free shops across Asia Pacific and at selected supermarkets in Metro Manila. Always enjoy Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky responsibly. Never drink and drive.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couples, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and your daughter along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 123, UMAK Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

ROMERO-GONZALES

Nany Romero, son of Eugenio and Tanya Romero, will wed Abdiel Gonzalez, daughter of (ret.) Hilario Alexander and Shirley Gonzalez on Oct. 26-at the Saint Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Jersey City, New Jersey, US.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory Mikado silk. The bodice and hollow is made of Philippine cashmere embroidery embellished with paillettes, seed pearls, crystal beads and rhinestones. The same pattern is repeated on back panel train and illusion tulle veil.

Reception will follow at the Manor Regency Hall, Silver Orange, New Jersey.

FRANCISCO-ALCANCIA

Eric Austrin Francisco, son of Mr and Ms Conrado Francisco, will wed Florida Rizalda Alcancia, daughter of Mr and Ms Orlando Rivera, on Nov. 15, at The Grand Terrace in Commonwealth, Quezon City. Groom's tuxedo and bride's gown were created by Bukaen's premiere fashion designers. Robert Zamora shot and makeup by Vicky Ria Ines.

BULLOZA-REYES

Dan Adrian D. Bulloza, son of Mr and Ms Danilo Bulloza, will wed lawyer Katherine S. Reyes, daughter of Mr and Ms Wilfredo Reyes, on Nov. 7 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Manila. Reception will be held at 1 Esplanade, SM Central Business Park Insular cor. Bay Boulevard, Pasay.

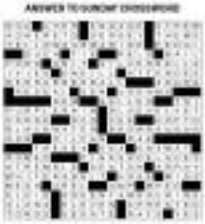
INDAY-CABEJEL

Francis Perez, son of Felipe (deceased) and Rebecca Perez, will wed Bhl, daughter of Rodolfo and Marlyn Cabejel, on Oct. 10 at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Caloocan City. Reception will be held at DP Bakay ng Alamid, UP Diliman, QC.

CASTRO 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Cesar (Bobby) D. Castro and Teresita Villegas-Castro recently marked their 40th anniversary with a thanksgiving Mass and a renewal of vows at the new church in Alabang, the Chapel of the Forgiving Lord of the Tuloy sa Dos Rosas Street Children Village. A formal dinner-dance in the grand ballroom of The Palms Country Club followed.

ANSWER TO SUNUM CROSSWORD



BRAJADO-BUENVIAJE

Gerald Brajado, son of Herbert and Evelyn Brajado, recently wed Sonia Buenviaje, daughter of Renato de los Santos vda. de Buenviaje, at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church Poblacion, Sta. Maria, Bulacan. Reception was held at Summer Int. Garden Pavilion, Malubang Herang, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Bartender prepares for New Delhi

RAM ONG, CHAMPION OF the Ooh Aaaand TGIFriday's Mixin Battle & Pour Bartending Championship, is the country's representative to the 2008 TGIFriday's Asia Pacific Bartending Championship in New Delhi, India on Dec. 7.

Under the watchful eyes of his trainer and TGIFriday's cluster bar manager Ronald Valencia, Ong is hard at work sharpening his skills behind the bar. Valencia was the 1998 Mixin Battle & Pour Champion.

Ong is a student of leisurely flairing and proven and hair-standing.

"My style in flairing is different from others. What makes it unique is that I let my hands speak. I don't like to depend on music or props. It's a lot of freestyle and working flair-practiced stuff. You can do it on a busy Friday night."

Ram's skills formidable as they are after Mixin Battle 8, Pony still have room for improvement.

"My main reasons coming into the Asia Pacific Bartending Championship is that a lot of the other competitors are veterans," Ong said.

"Being a rookie, a lot of them are ahead of me when it comes to experience. It's very different here in the Philippines where a lot of competitions are all about flairing. I am country's representative to the 2008 TGIFriday's Asia Pacific Bartending Championship in New Delhi, India on Dec. 7.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

Ces Drilon: Life Interrupted /E1

CONDURA
THE NEGOSYO REF
FREE
NEGOSYO START-UP KIT*
*Available only for the P two-liter oil, 8 k 11 upright freezer.

RP is France's 'Ecotourism Destination of the Year'

DOT Secretary Joseph Ace Durano accepts the ecotourism citation from a Nature representative. With him are Nora Bienvenueux, Team Europe head; Verve Tan, tourism attaché (DOT-Frankfurt) and Blaise Barrere, Inendaer's PR manager for the Asian markets.

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

THE FRENCH CAN'T SEEM TO get enough of the Philippines these days.

Fresh from being featured in two versions of "Bob Lindo," the French version of "Survivor," the country recently clinched another honor: the coveted "Ecotourism Destination of the Year" title in the 2009 edition of Bonsoir, one of France's biggest travel fairs.

A jubilant Joseph Ace Durano, secretary of the Philippine Department of Tourism, broke the good news at the recently concluded Top Resa travel fair in Paris.

Colleagues from DOT and the Philippine Tourism Authority as well as representatives from the government and private sectors, which included some of the country's biggest tour operators, were also present.

RP IS FRANCE'S E3

Savoring Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

By Erlinda Enriquez Pardito
Contributor

IT'S NO WONDER PRINCESS Caroline of Monaco should choose to live—if spend most of her time here in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

Unfortunately for the paparazzi and curious tourists like me, there's no way we can catch a glimpse of Her Serene Highness, for she hardly ventures into town.

From her royal enclave in the rolling hills below the Alpilles, the sacred mountains of Provence.

This, despite the allure of Saint-Rémy's famous Market Day on Wednesday, or its Food and Art Day on Saturdays, which our group of three women was entranced to witness and shop in.

Our guide was no less than a Filipina resident, Melissa

SAVORING E3

Oct. 5 is Teachers' Day

Do you remember your favorite teacher? Do you remember how he or she made learning fun and exciting? Or maybe how he or she made you feel special, like you could do anything if you tried? There's nothing like the power of a good teacher...their impact on their students lasts a lifetime.

So it's time to say "Thank You!", because OCTOBER 5 is World Teacher's Day!

Supermalls, together Department of Education, University, Marketbank, Philippine Business for and other groups are inviting say "thank you!" to at least one of their teachers. A small gift, a phone call or long way

We day go into doing

SM with the De La Salle Foundation. Educators everyone to show their school ID's get a 10% discount. Promo is valid on October 5 only and does not apply to items like chemicals, toiletries, diapers, pharmacy, small appliances, furniture machines and other items.

For more information on other Teachers' Day Activities or to leave online messages for your teachers, please visit www.teachersday.ph

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO OUR TEACHERS!
OCTOBER 5 IS TEACHERS' DAY

Appreciation Sale for Teachers at SM Department Store
On Sunday, October 5, just present your teacher's ID upon purchase to get 10% off on great selections. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. All-in Bonus on gift vouchers not valid in Cubao, Dasmariñas, Clark, Bicutan and San Lazaro!

A Big Thank You to Teachers!
October 1-10
Wall of Greetings - SM City Iloilo
October 5
- My Mentor - Celebrating World Teachers' Day featuring SM Scholar, Joseph Piamonte - SM City Manila
- WYMP Makes the Teachers Proud! - SM City Baguio
- SuperChef Cooking Demo for Teachers - SM Supercenter Molino
- Campus Singing Teachers - SM City Lucena
- Search for the Star Teacher Singing Contest - SM City Cagayan de Oro
October 7
- Special Dryhasa & Tribute to Teachers - SM City Clark
October 22
- Largest Thank You Banner for Teachers - SM Mall of Asia

SM SUPERMALLS
North Edsa • Fairview • Valenzuela • Manila • San Lazaro • Sta. Mesa • Megamall • Pasig • Taytay • Marikina • Bicutan • Aura • Southmall • Muntinlupa • Bacoor • Sta. Rosa • Batangas • Rosmariñas • Molino • Iloilo • Marilao • Baguio • Lucena • Clark • Pampanga • Tuba • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Bacolod

THE FAMILY pool surrounded by olive trees

Savoring Saint-Rémy-de-Provence

MELISSA Lopez Jouvet

HADRIEN, Joel and Melissa Jouvet

From page D1

Lopez, daughter of my traveling companion Chona M. Lopez. Melissa is married to a French businessman, Joel Jouvet, who spends three days of the week in Paris where he keeps a pied-a-terre. The third member of my party, when we ventured by TGV, France's high-speed train, from there to Avignon to mid-June, was Bong Fajardo.

The drive from the Avignon train station to Saint-Rémy took less than 20 minutes. Bong and I thought we were on a movie scene when the sexiest black was (gasp embellished) with gold and topped by Bacon de Bic's (the previous owners of the estate) coat of arms, greeted us. Melissa's remote-control command.

Profligate blooms of French lavender that are so typical of Provence lined both sides of the 100-meter drive into Melissa and Joel's estate. Two century-old olive trees in contrast with a lovely fountain sat back at some between them, as if delivering to them.

Melissa and Joel's friends and then-eyed son Hadrien simmered out of the house with his three playful labradors. We greeted his mother in English with a thick French accent that was so charming we were like, Complexly bilingual, he would soon to his papa and switch to French).

Former bed-and-bath

Bong and I could only pass. "Wow! Hot Hot Dollar!" as we heard the hosts to see three beautifully appointed living rooms and six bedrooms (originally eight), each with its own toilet and bath plus a separate shower stall, that I found it difficult to choose which one I would stay in.

Melissa explained that the house used to be a bed-and-breakfast owned by the daughter of the Baron du Bic (as in Bic ball pen). She and Joel had converted two bedrooms into their respective dressing rooms that Hadrien dubbed their "boutiques."

She made us feel welcome with an unpublished—but unbelievable—and gold-to-tongue-tie artistically arranged to place cards around the living room.

Her open kitchen, one side of which has a counter with stools, nestled on to see her in action, for Melissa had studied the culinary arts, including a chef's course at the Ritz in Paris.

For appetizers, we would have a variety of bruschettas—prosciutto and buffalo drizzled with extra-virgin olive oil, fromboille mushrooms infused with truffle oil—and tapenade.

In the mornings, Melissa would drive down quickly to the patisserie once her house to get some freshly baked croissants that we savored with delicious homemade fig jam from Melissa's friend Gro Jolliessa, who lives in Tuscany with her Finnish husband.

Melissa always had a selection of goat cheeses—Chèvre de Poitou and Chèvre des Mothes—that ate to Epoque of Saint-Rémy, as well as artisanal Tarome de Savoie and Tomme de Montagne coming from other French regions. We would sit at the spotless oval dining table, which looks out to the swimming pool and the rows of silent cypresses beyond it, surrounded by three kinds of olive trees—French, Spanish and Italian, whose piercing heel trimmed diverted. We would savor that French olives are the best in the world.

The three-hectare grounds are a work in progress, and Joel has been clearing and cultivating them as weekends with the help of a hired hand.

I am at a loss for words to describe the three chambres privées—bedrooms—in Provençale style, which I have never seen anywhere in the world. For me, the best part of the day was dinner in the early evenings, when the sun, low on the horizon, cast a surreal glow over the trees.

Discovery

To start our discovery of Saint-Rémy, Melissa brought us to the Place de la République, bordering the town center, which is crowded by walking past the church of Saint-Martin.

The Gallo-Roman town still bears houses of Le Castelet was formerly within its circular 14th-century protective wall. The old quarter remains, serving as nostalgic entrances to the heart of old Saint-Rémy.

If you come through the ancient Porte de Rou on the northern edge of the old town, you would be walking down the rue Hoche-Hoche, and find yourself coming to the fountain crowned above the 18th-century son, which is topped with lion-tops.

OLIVES galore

AN L'HOMAGE!

LAUCISSONS of Provence on Market Day

ELM-LINED road leading to a private estate

I was surprised to learn that Saint-Rémy was his birthplace, in 1503. This is the peopled spot who made a series of some 900 "predictions" in quatrains designed to tell a number of future events. Like typical tourists, we posed for a photo-op in front of a delicious fountain-built to honor of Louis XVII, former Count of Provence, in a square shaded by plane and nettle trees, in front of the Hotel de Ville (city hall) that dates to the 17th century. The building sits on the site of an Ursuline convent. Its classical façade prepared by a row of arcades. The clock tower is what's left of an old belfry.

Highlight

By far the highlight of our visit was Khaled Day. What a sight and experience it was! Visitors from religious, 30 kms south, and in the west at Montpellier and Marseilles. Back to Saint-Rémy on Wednesdays to shop and dine in the charming restaurants and café-brasseries in town.

Oh la la! I've never seen so many luscious, ripe red tomatoes of all sizes in my life, or such a variety of olives, all piled up in giant baskets. And the cheeses and sausages...Mon dieu! I grew giddy and hungry just looking at them.

The markets occupy practically the whole town, its allure and vigorous invaded by stands as diverse as they are brightly colored, the joyful ambiance blending with the scents of Provence and the chatter of shoppers.

Cheese and Bong couldn't decide whether to buy mustard-yellow, teal-blue or olive-green tablecloths for their homes, while I couldn't make up my mind on which Provençal painting to get.

Melissa had become a familiar sight to readers, who all greeted her affectionately "Ca va! Vous êtes belle, aujourd'hui, Jouvet!"

Only touch Princess Caroline when a Filipina in penny as Melissa visits the markets of Saint-Rémy?

FOUNTAIN of Nostradamus

THE AUTHOR with Chona Lopez and Bong Pagcaliwagan of the Jouvet residence

New miles card

WITH THE NEW CIS PROMISEMILES card, jet set to any place in the world while getting travel protection all the same. Just pay for travel tickets using Cit Premier Miles and get free travel insurance and travel accident insurance.

Get travel accident insurance for as much as P10 million when purchasing travel tickets using Cit Premier Miles.

The best part is the travel accident coverage starts from point of departure until point of arrival, giving passengers complete security and peace of mind.

Claim as much as P10,000 for the inconvenience when traveling alone and when baggage is delayed for six hours from arrival. Meanwhile, claim up to P200,000 in inconveniences when traveling with family.

For baggage that is lost after 24 hours has passed, Cit Premier Miles cardholders are entitled to P50,000 if traveling solo, or P80,000 when traveling with family.

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DoTM-NCR and Edu Jacquez with Arnold Gonzales, sales and PR officer; Michael Ilao, Duty Free Phils. QPI; Marissa Balbuena, media relations officer; Theresa Martines, DOT assistant secretary; Tau Buenaventura; and Estela Gonzales, marketing officer

PHILIPPINE Tourism Assistant Secretary (second from left) Domingo DL Ragaza Jr., Renaissance Manila General Manager Bernard Volmer and Carlos Ortega Jr.

DURAMO and his assessment with a "Green Measure" producer (right)

KIRK Revanilla, DOT regional director (Region 1)

RP is France's 'Ecotourism Destination of the Year'

From page B1

PATRICK Nieto Jr., Anantara Beach Resort and Spa

MIA Martinez, Swan

ROSE Gillespie, Sofitel Philippine Plaza

MAIT Ramos, lead singer of Amanda Jane

BAYANIHAN Dancers Petra Elepaño, Richard Rocha and Chantell Cabrera

JOY Dumaya, El Nido

RICHARD Rivera and Asia Marie Sosa, Sosa Beach Resort

CHAMPION, bartender Ryan Burgos

TINE RASMUSSEN, top tourism producers at the annual trade fair

Bicol festival at the mall

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM www.singaporeair.com

This holiday season, Singapore Airlines will be giving away the latest gadgets that will let you stay connected with www.singaporeair.com even while on vacation!

Log on to www.singaporeair.com and checkout your favorite Singapore Airlines destinations with exciting all-in fares! Purchase your tickets by 31 October, 2008 and travel from Manila anytime until 31 December, 2008 (return by 31 January, 2009).

Simply input your KrisFlyer number upon booking. As soon as you begin your journey on Singapore Airlines, you automatically qualify to stand a chance to win coveted **Apple iPhones, Apple iPod Touch and Acer Aspire One mini-notebooks**.

With these gadgets, you can instantly access singaporeair.com and enjoy our online services for your Singapore Airlines flights – book online, select your specific seats, check-in online and print your boarding pass!

Watch out for the ticket dates on 29 November, 2008 (for departures 01 October to 15 November, 2008), and 16 January, 2009 (for departures 16 November to 31 December, 2008).

For more information visit www.singaporeair.com or email SGAManila_Offers@singaporeair.com.sg

If you are not yet a member, simply sign-up at www.krisflyer.com

Per DTI Permit Number 4000, Series of 2008

LET YOUR DREAM JOURNEY TAKE FLIGHT WITH

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Take advantage of promotional all-in fares to Singapore (limited destinations around the world)

Bicol's tourism and trade fair and festival will highlight the region's hottest tourist destinations and top entrepreneurs.

According to DOTT regional director Rhita Revanilla, the fair aims to promote tourism linkages with the players in the travel industry, trade buyers and investors to boost Bicol's tourism, trade and investment potentials.

Dubbed "Gayon Bikol sa OE Bikol," the annual trade fair and festival will highlight the region's hottest tourist destinations and top entrepreneurs.

According to DOTT regional director Rhita Revanilla, the fair aims to promote tourism linkages with the players in the travel industry, trade buyers and investors to boost Bicol's tourism, trade and investment potentials.

The region's six provinces will showcase their best destinations and festivals through a wide array of exhibits, while local government units will highlight their native products under the ITTI's "One Town, One Product (OTOP)" program.

Bicol is composed of the provinces of Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Catanduanes and Masbate.

Cultural performances and activities of member-municipalities and cities—the L Boy Villafuerte Cultural Dancers, Landmark champion Venares Rayel, Jollibi Dancer, Dina Bonita and Icon Bicolandia, Universidad de Sta. Isabel Dance Troupe, Pink Barrel Band and magician Jon Hilario—will liven up the show.

Revanilla cited the recent increase of tourism arrivals in the region because of the development of new tourist attractions, such as the Gerardo Montesparos Complex, the white sand beach resorts in Malilipot, Albay and Caramoan, Camarines Sur.

Other tourist spots include Mayon Volcano, Bicol's iconic landmark, and Sporadic Island in Donsol.

Bicol-based airlines include rebate deals or babysitting services to Sorsogon, jodeo festival in Masbate and surfing in Camarines Norte and Catanduanes.

Bicol has also become accessible with the entry of various domestic airlines offering affordable fares.

Revanilla, who just came from a successful promotional blitz in France, also revealed the vast potential of the European market looking at the Bicol region as an adventure destination.

Some of the RP's top tourism producers and officials, led by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano (fifth from left), pose with Miss Universe Dayanara Torres (sixth from left) during the Philippine Travel Exchange (PHITEX) 2008 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City. Also in the photo are (from left) Tourism Assistant Secretary Domingo DL Ragaza Jr., Tourism Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad, Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jacquez, Tourism Undersecretary Ramon Jimenez Jr., Tourism Undersecretary Tau Buenaventura, Tourism Undersecretary Estela Gonzales, Tourism Undersecretary Ricardo Bautista, Tourism Undersecretary Rolando Canlas,

Lake Buhi, Bicol's hidden jewel

Text and photos by Rosalie Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

NEAR PASAY ROTONDA, there were airconditioned buses going direct to Buhi, Camarines Sur, and also to Naga City. But they were leaving in the evening.

Inconvenient, unacceptable to this traveller in those I was, entailing if not one late morning to a regular bus, to no unproposoning bus station.

The lookout (who has a commission per passenger lured in) said the bus would be leaving soon ("sulit na"). That was a lie, of course, because more passengers were still being awaited. The fare to Naga was P400, just right for this penny-pinching budget tourist spending his own money.

Passengers argued with the jovial conductor and vendors distilled back and forth, shouting upon your face everything imaginable under the sun: fruits, towels, shawls, earphones, peanuts, combs and chicken ZZs, watches, clothes, "bambooders," etc.

And, for the birds, slithering and wormwalking my finger I settled for two camouflage shorts, a steal at P50 each.

I had gone on the Naga route in 2003, bound for the entrancing Caramoan Peninsula, also in Camarines Norte, yes, I have "discovered" Caramoan for no-frontiers just-yonder after Pagsanjan Island and Bohol-on, in the disputed Spanish (in a phrase plotted by humorbilled navy Lt. Cmdr. Abet Cachet).

With stops and all, the trip took 4 1/2 hours. It rained intermittently that day, and the Quezon National Park was awash in green-ery. The sight of Lamon Bay in Atimonan, coming after the mountain zigzag, aroused the passengers. A few more Quezon towns, and then came an endless ride through the pine-darkened landscape, with the Bicol National Park shielding the provinces of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur.

At Naga, I checked in at the budget Asian pagoda Tourist Inn (P300), situated beside Survey View Hotel. Here (at Susaysaysay) a bath-toilet will cost you P140, but is reduced one upon return. The next leg was a 90-minute journey via van (eleven, P70) to Buhi, which turned out to be a charming town just 4 kgs City.

Finally I took a tricycle (P100, good for three) to my destination, the Lake Buhi Resort. (Also from Iriga/Bicolano. Iroton center) in Barangay Colconi, Buhi.

Lovely resort

The beauty of the resort was unpainted and modern in style, and therefore not too attractive—at least to me. But the rest of the resort was lovely: 32 elegant rooms, a gazebo, duplex bungalows, the obligatory coconut palm trees and well-manicured lawn, kiddie-and adult pools, a mini-golf course, a function room and a presidential suite by the lakeshore.

The poolside is often used for events. When I was there, a wedding reception was under way, a call was being received, and work resumed three hrs on bachelorette party on the day or night (6). Part of the resort is a lakeside Cabo Cripa but within the lake itself, where guests can dine, have coffee, or even play mahjong or cards.

The two-hectare resort is bordered by the lush foothills of Mt. Asog (known as Mt. Iriga on the western side), and Lake Buhi and its mysterious ranges. It is owned by a local boy who made good, Cipriano Obsania (0917-322-3110), an entrepreneur who attained success in furniture exports and real estate in Cebu, and is now part-owner of Hillcrest Mona.

The resort's consultant is Joey Victor Ramos, a veteran hotelier and cautious executive of the Manila Hotel, Baguio Hotel, and many other establishments.

Lake Buhi can compare in beauty to Lake Taal in the Batangas-Tagaytay boundary, and Lake Bukidnon in Mindanao. It spans 1,900 hectares, with twin waterfalls at the end. The lake is often described as the home of the world's smallest edible fish, tabios. These measure 2.5 cms, smaller than a non-existent coin, with hundreds of thousands being scooped up in one dip.

The lake also teems with tilapia, carp and mudfish (dalag). There's also eels, given in color and shape, although this is not too abundant, and bagtas, small shells.

"The water is clear because there are springs," said Obsania. "But the bottom is murky, being mud, and not recommended for swimming divers." The deepest part of the lake is 40 feet.

Enchanted town

The legend of Buhi (as retold by Bonifacio Domingo in her book "The Alpha") is that it used to be an enchanted town where people forgot to pray or do their household duties. So God punished them by sending them to the bowels of the earth, from where a beautiful lake, Buhi, materialized.

And, it is claimed, on a windless day when the waters are still, you can see the people of the ancient Buhi town going about their daily tasks.

Another legend about the lake has a Frankenstein ring (pun not intended). It is about a bell which by calling days used to scare the people against evils by Muslim buccaneers. One day the Muslims stole the bell and hurled it into the lake. And it has not been found to this day. Other lakes have similar legends.

The lake was even more beautiful in the morning, the waters and the mountain peaks seeming into distant focus. And I shot a hours—Mt. Mayon in the distance, her outlines clear despite the clouds rolling by.

Boating, swimming, fishing or whatever could work. For now, happiness was cycling up on the circular loops with my bros ("Pandoro: A ABC") surrounded by trees, flowers, sculptured rocks, mosses, massive thatch (bahay), mountain ranges, and the waters of the silvery, serene lake.

SHADES of Sarao's tractor (Rob wraps)

And what a bonus—Mt. Mayon in the distance, her outlines clear despite the clouds rolling by

LAZING along Lake Buhi Resort

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Ces Drilon: Life interrupted

As she returns on air on Oct. 11, she talks of how she's coping—'I wouldn't wish this experience on anyone'

THE KIDNAP victim prepares for her close-up—and for her comeback.

By James P. Gray
Correspondent

THREE MONTHS AFTER being released by her abductors in Sulu province and two weeks before the end of her suspension from news network ABS-CBN, broadcast journalist Ces Oreña Drilon is ready to get back on track with her interrupted life.

Friends say she's never looked better, her skin has cleared up after nine days in the jungle, and, at 46, she looks youthful in her new short-sweet-and-sassy hairstyle.

Early this week, she had a video taping for the new publicity campaign for "Bandila," the late-night news program she will co-host starting Oct. 11. She has been busy meeting people, doing dinners with family and friends, and especially with her sons—a new happening since she began her career as TV reporter-cum-host 20 years ago.

Those who know Drilon from then on agree that she's the real thing: a dedicated news reporter who will pursue stories wherever they are and whatever they may be. In the ABS-CBN newsroom, which she joined as a news reporter in 1989, she is known for her 24-hour days.

Her mom at only 6 a.m. and sometimes doesn't leave until midnight. Her colleagues respect her for managing and combining her own interviews, for being a multitasker and writing her own stories, even after she started hosting her own shows.

Crisis

Those, of course, were the same traits that landed her in a kidnapping crisis last June.

In pursuit of a scoop, she flew to Basilan to interview Radullan Sahiron, a former MNLF warrior and the supposed spiritual mentor of the Abu Sayyaf group.

"My mistake was in being so naive in hoping that the time I was to interview would prevent a different view of the Abu Sayyaf. I was wrong. Apparently the message never got to him. Bored and hatred got in the way. If we are to believe the commander in charge, he just decided to deny a voice to kidnap or his enemies," writes Drilon in her story for the current edition of Metro Hill magazine, where she goes to detail about her days in captivity.

"The bloodless quest for self-determination has been a running story I had been covering since I began my career as a journalist almost 20 years ago," says Drilon, whose late father, a lieutenant colonel in the Philippine Army, served as a battalion commander in the South.

Through the nine days she was held in the jungle, Drilon was surrounded only by men. "My only encounter with women was on the second day when we walked through a small community stop a mountain. I would look into their eyes as if begging for help, our kidnappers forbidding us from uttering a word," she writes in the magazine.

Today, she tells Inquirer she was advised by a psychologist to see the experience in a positive way. "I have been told and that the experience allowed me the opportunity to look into my inner and deepest self. She said that I must develop the ability to tap into the deepest and wisest me, and to strive for an internal way of living," says Drilon.

Drilon reflects on her experience and shares how she is coping with life after the kidnapping.

In eleven months enough time to look back at your experience and put what has happened into context? Or are you still processing it?

My experience while in captivity was certainly a life-changing event. While I was prepared for the consequences of my actions and determined to accept accountability for having defied my boss, Quinto Villar's instructions, I was initially shocked at the three-month suspension meted out on me. But looking back now, as I am about to return to work, I realize I really needed the time to heal, to assess my life and my career as a journalist, to even pause and smell the flowers.

Accepting accountability is the only

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MALTESER International in action in Lahaina, Myanmar

MERCY Tuason, Dame of Malta, attending to a wheelchair during the World Day of the Sick

DAMES Josie Bautista and Mercy Tuason leading the procession in Lourdes

Order of Malta follows the spirit of Lourdes

By Odilia Gregorio Bonoyo
Correspondent

ON THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY EACH year, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and Malta meet in Lourdes to honor Our Lady of Lourdes, bringing with them the "malades," or the sick, to experience the healing of the sacred waters of Lourdes.

This year 2006 is an exceptional one, being the 150th anniversary of the appearance of our Lady to St. Bernadette Soubirous with the message of love and hope, in 1858. Our Lady asked Bernadette to dig into the ground, and the waters gushed forth. Up to this day, the ground has not yet dried.

I headed the delegation to Lourdes from the Order of Malta, Philippines, with four other dames of the Order—Marilen Gonzalez, Mercy Tuason, Trining Pantoyoni, and Josie Bautista. In Lourdes, we served the "malades" brought by the other delegations from all over the world.

DAME Rosa Valmonte attends to the sick at San Marina de Purres Charity Hospital.

This year, there were almost 2,000 malades, and 8,000 members of the Order to perform their commitment of serving the poor and the sick. I have been to Lourdes as a pilgrim and tourist but to be there to be with the sick in a refreshing, if often exhausting, and tiring way, is all about. The sight of the sick in wheelchairs and gurneys wrapped in blankets is an experience of its own. Here there are no royalty, no CEOs, no millionaire tycoons, no servants or masters. Only "Our lords, the sick."

The year 2006 is also the 30th year of the Order of Malta's presence in Lourdes, and it is our mission to preserve this tradition of bringing the poor sick to bathe in the holy waters of Lourdes. If not to effect physical healing, then, in most cases, the healing of the soul.

The Order of Malta Philippines has been serving 132 organizations annually, mostly Roman Catholic. These organizations include clinics, hospices and hospitals, as well as civic and religious foundations. Quarterly, we distribute medicines, medical supplies, medical equipment and healthcare products. These are donated by concerned individuals from the UK, Japan, Germany, Spain and other countries where the Order has an association. Foundations like Americares and the Ronald Mercian Family Foundation have also been extraordinarily supportive. Mercian is a Knight of the Order of Malta.

WRITING on the wall in an 18th-century chancellor's office, Rodin (above): Diaries of the Order of Malta in Lourdes

Malta to the rescue

When disasters happen in the Philippines, the Order of Malta, Philippines has a disaster response unit to respond. We were in Real in 2006 to help the "Reming" victims; we were also in Iloilo and Aklan to help the victims of Hurricane Frank.

With funds collected from our members and friends of the Order both here and abroad, we were able to serve 250 families with blankets, mats and construction materials to rebuild homes worth P1.4 million. Dames of the Order Marilen Concepcion, Rosemarie Pineda, and Josie Bautista, Knight Antonio Lacson, Megaval Chaplain Msgr. Fernando Ocariz and I distributed these in the towns of San Barbara, Iloilo, and Kalibo, Aklan. The Order of Malta also has global relief arm, the Malteser International, which has assisted in the world's worst disasters such as the tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia, and the floods in Myanmar (where they were the first to be allowed to bring relief goods). Malteser, Chile, rushed there recently to Bihar, Northern India.

We help the Dole Indonesia emergency relief and sustainable development. Then we remain through the rehabilitation processes of shelter, family employment, education and spirit.

As in Lourdes, there is again the breathing image of suffering and care again, the searching of one's soul for the compassion we can see in when we became Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta. For almost 1,000 years, since the Order was founded in Jerusalem, the children of the Order have served the sick in a therapeutic compassion," which translates as "defense of the faith and service to the poor and sick."

Can we really make a difference in the face of the unimaginable misery of suffering everywhere?

We can only try, and the Order of Malta Philippines is set on building a small secondary hospital for the suffering poor and embryonic in the Lord, we may be able to alleviate some of the pain and sorrow around us.

KNIGHTS and Dames of the Order of Malta in their church robes at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Makati

'Caysasay' musical to open Oct. 25 in Taal

AFTER TWO YEARS OF DELAY, the musical play "Hinagpis sadang Bidoro ng Caysasay" is set to open Oct. 25, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the newly renovated Taal grand covered court. Taal can accommodate 4,000 people, according to Ramon Delima, executive producer. It's like a coming home for the play as the main role of the Virgin Mary took place in Santo Tomas, Taal, in 1602. Singer Ogie Alcasid is going to play Hagibang, who was beheaded by the Spaniards, but lived again with the help of Our Lady of Caysasay.

The script was written by Maria Rosa and music by Nyek Gozelyn. Other star members are: Fey Hidar as Sybila, Tommy Abad, Tiny Jose, Rio Arifo, Juan Hindergard, Nestor Bernal, Lolasi, Andy Bek, Tiburcio Medio-Amanecer, Dr. Elvira, Mario Tenio, Tiboy, Cecil Tuazo, Sylvia and Roychel Tuazo, Meridie.

Successful premiere

In July 2005, "Hinagpis sadang Bidoro ng Caysasay" had a successful premiere at the Little Theater of the Center of Creative Performances. It was orchestrated in Cavalcade's best musical (Broadway style) that touched the hearts of viewers.

A road tour was held beginning Oct. 30, 2006, in Balayan, Batangas. On Feb. 24, 2006, next responsible shows were held at the Lyceum of Batangas and University of Batangas.

For Eastern University hosted two shows on aug. 16, 2006, at its famous air-dues auditorium. It was part of the university's 60th anniversary celebration.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcong

cultural program. For tickets to the Taal show, text 0917-8881108.

Sayas Foundation

It takes a lot of people who care to give sustained support for the enhancement of the arts of the Filipino dance scene as performers, choreographer or teacher. Sol Tan Gotoe, president of Sayas Foundation, and her friends can. There are 250 scholars to date who have been helped by the foundation. The first president was Miss Rufino, followed by Yuying Dungon.

The partnership with the City of Mandaluyong started in 2001 with the enthusiastic support of Cora Abalos and then Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr. and wife Marelen. The multipurpose hall of Highway Hills Elementary School was chosen as the venue of ballet and dance classes of the young dance scholars from different barangays on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Aside from ballet training from professionals in the field, Sayas Foundation also provides the scholars with costumes, ballet shoes, leotards and tights.

Classes are conducted by Lucille G. Perez and his three assistants, plus more are hired during recitals and previous. Over, They have trained over 350 scholars. At present, there are 89 regular beginners and advanced scholars training at Kalsa ng Hiyas with three classes two times a week.

Rep. Gondos Villar opened the same project in Las Piñas Central Elementary School with 100 scholars attending every week. Another project is being arranged in partnership with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay this week.

Philippine Ballet Theater

Three scholars performed recently in "Decongco ni Ramon" by the Philippine Ballet Theater at the CCP Main Theater for the benefit of Sayas Foundation. Mounted by the Filipino Heritage Festival headed by Miss Rufino, the ballet was directed by Moses Caringal

OSIS Alcasid in Hagibang in the "Caysasay" musical play

Sols Tan Gotoe (center), Sayas Foundation president, with Yuying Arugay and Miss Rufino

showed the young dancers at their best. Thanks to people who care. Add Sol Tan Gotoe says, "I wish we could do more."

Pilgrimage

Fr. Gerry Taylodon's pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Slovenia, Europe has been moved to Nov. 3. Call Jenny Garcia at 7721797 or text her at 0928-8958800. Lourdes, France, is the main highlight of the trip.

Fr. Rey Magnaye

The first Fr. Rey Magnaye was able to come out with an "Hiraya Aby" CD and completed before he passed away in 1997 due to heart attack. In his memory the diocese of Malolos is making available his CD. To buy, please text 0922-8521124 or call 1044) 791-0288.

Cavite outing

Some 46 for Sayas, who built the Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cruz Trino, Cavite, is a descendant of Catarina Mendoza de los Reyes who was one of 114 Filipinos who risked life, future, comfort and society when they joined the Cavite Mutiny in 1872. In March 1995, the Governor Remigio de los Reyes Foundation published a full account of the mutiny. How to get a free copy, text Mrs. Lindsay at 0917-8530800.

Living with the saints

"Living with the Saints Part II" will take place at the Rosary cardinal of the Lord Parish in BF Homes B. Parañaque, after the successful campaign by Tony Medina of the Faithful Heroes Uniting Texas to organize people about the saints. But on and time around gave us a bigger scale with the Textile School Parents Association, the Legion of Mary and the Knights of Columbus involved.

Mary for the youth

In the morning of Oct. 16, Msgr. Mario Miallaril will open the seminar on "Mary for the Youth." Today's are Veritas Parochial School. Invited speakers are Fr. Jerold Mumbon, Sr. Teresing Castillo and Fr. Francis Castillo, SDB.

Healing Masses

The Aladores A-27 Healing Ministry will hold healing Masses on Fr. Jerold Mumbon on Oct. 11, 8 p.m., at Buenos Aires in the Ashwin Dutch on Antonio St., BDC Compound in Sta. Elena, Manila; Oct. 25, 6 p.m., in San Isidro Labrador Parish on Isabelo Ave., Tondo like Homes I & II, Quezon, Las Piñas City; and Oct. 31, 8 p.m., in Edsa Shaw.

Molave exhibit

Mariner jewelry artist Celia Aldana has always created her jewelry designs in the Spirit moved her. Her finished works like "Lamb of God," "Crucifixion" and "Children Being about a feeling of peace. Celia credits this feeling to the fact that she is "anointed" by the "enchanted." Celia Aldana's exhibit opens at the White Cube of Metropolitan Museum on Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

Ces Drilon: Life interrupted

From page E1

way I can claim my profession back. As a journalist, our job is to hold people to public office accountable for their actions, and I must be able to demonstrate that I am accountable for my actions as well.

What lessons have you learned from it, as journalist?

While it was a very fearful experience, I still have the passion to pursue stories in conflict areas, to delve deeper into stories that affect Filipinos as a people, to search for answers in our quest for a better life. I think that is the calling of a journalist. The experience, however, has also taught me the important lesson of being more prudent and discriminating in the choice of my sources.

The experience, however, brought me face to face with the plight of the Muslims. I saw how even children have come to bear arms to fight. The experience, I think, arms me with more sensitivity and empathy as a journalist, not for the hardline but for the circumstances of the downtrodden that drive them to desperation.

How about as a mother?

My sons and my family (mother, brother and sisters) have sacrificed greatly while I would go on field work as a reporter and leave home for days on end. I have taken them for granted in many ways. When I came back I also learned that strong and independent as I am, I need their love and care. I have come to cherish them more for that.

And as a person?

I discovered the well of strength I had as a person and the ability to still be in control in a situation where all seemed hopeless. I realized that I am an optimist as a person. I learned that no matter what evil, there is always good. I learned that I am not invincible and must surrender to the will of God over which people I learned that devotions I make affect my loved ones.

Do you think some of these lessons could only have been learned through this experience?

The refuge that you never realize the value of something until you almost lose it is so true, in the case of my captivity. During one captivity, I had prepared myself to be ready for death and to take it calmly. Life is so short and can take such a tragic turn. My sons were my best ones. Those painful realizations which I may not have made, had I not been taken captive.

On your release, you described your experience as humbling. Looking back now, have else would you describe it? How will it shape/influence you now as a journalist?

I was humbled by the prayers said for my safety, from my colleagues, family, friends to total strangers. When I walk around the road, I am approached by people who had prayed for me, to ask how I am, to convey their sympathy. It is just so touching and enriching. I feel a greater sense of responsibility, more than ever, to be a better journalist, to pursue stories our viewers need to know. To be more proactive lest we still leave the scene and is going after a story to help viewers expose, like their views on issues that affect their lives ... I owe this to the many, many viewers who wished for my safety.

Apart from prayers, how did you cope in the jungle?

I kept a journal where I penned not only my observations about our captors and our surroundings, but also my emotions and fears. I would reach for my journal when frustration and fear would be almost unbearable. I also fed a curiosity about our surroundings. I laugh now with Jimmy when I recall how I would watch guns and frogs and bees they would carry food. Just to while the time away in the jungle.

Was it challenging for you to go back to regular life after those nine days?

It was in the beginning. For the first weeks, I would always wake up in the middle of the night. In the jungle the night sounds are endless. Sometimes I would wake up at midnight thinking it was a new day but it was also at (shudder) My sons were more demonstrative, hugging and hugging me more often.

DRILON in her ABS-CBN newsroom last Sept. 23. She's excited to finish her three-month suspension and be back on the beat Oct. 11.

DRILON's account of her abduction in the current issue of Metro MM magazine. She writes that a fellow abductee had overheard the kidnappers planning to rape her.

VIDEO grabs from ABS-CBN of Ces Drilon and her crew during their abduction by the Abu Sayyaf, as published in Metro MM magazine

You've always been on the go, starting work very early and leaving work very late. How did it feel to suddenly find yourself with nothing to do? Did it force you to plan your life anew?

It was difficult at first to adjust to days where there was no real schedule to follow. But then, since I am working a book about my experience, I try to be on the computer in the afternoons to just put my thoughts down. But I also savor the freedom of not having anything planned, no agenda, nothing to rush to, which I have not experienced to such a long time and for so long a period.

Most of my appearances have been to the dentist, to various with friends I had not seen in years, and meals with my mom and sisters. And, of course, dinners at home with my sons, a very rare occurrence when I work.

Would you say your priorities remain the same before ...and after ...the kidnapping?

The three-month suspension has allowed me time to focus on myself and my family and to be my life ...to provide a better home environment for my sons. Hence, I sold a lot I invested to build my dream house on and instead bought a place in the city closer to where my oldest son works and also where the environment is more secure.

I had always wanted to write a book and so I am starting on that, which will hopefully out only be about my experience but will also bring more understanding on the societies in Mindanao. I have learned that I cannot prioritize my career over my loved ones, in terms of time. While family had always been my top priority, I would always sacrifice time with my son in favor of a career.

Hopefully, I can achieve a better work-life balance when I return to work in October.

Was the experience worth it, as a journalist? Do you think it was all part of the job?

It's part of the job, but I wouldn't wish this experience on anyone. I know it has changed me both personally and professionally. I don't regret what happened to me. I only hope I have matched myself and my commitment to journalism because of it.

Seems Like
Tween Spirit
at SM

They're, well, in between being kids and teens, playtime and career, a child's wholesomeness and an adolescent's angst. Welcome to the world of tweens!

Say hello to today's tweens – absolutely digital, internet savvy, and PHP crazy. They're also learning to find themselves and their fashion style, which is very much influenced by their idols, tween divas Miley Cyrus of Hannah Montana fame, the refreshing pop powerhouse the Jonas Brothers, the now it girl Demi Lovato on Camp Rock, and the hilarious Dobie Boll and Josh Peck of Drake and Josh.

Tween spirit rules at SM with the latest tween trends – popsicle plastic skirts and necklaces ... not hoodies ... graphic tees with young messages ... and for girls skinny jeans, jewel toned tops, and shrugs that's on top of fashion charts.

Take on the tween spirit at the Pre Teens Department of all SM stores.

Fashion
Art Director at the SM Department Store
Photography: Edwin Bartido

TWEENS in the Head: Wears up your street style in cool printed hoodies

COOL Layering: Wear a hip printed hoodie over a long-sleeve fitted tee

GET your tween spirit together in hip graphic statement tees layered over a long-sleeved hoodie or fitted with a tee or Basic

MAD About Plaid: Plaid shorts add spunk to this red, white and blue ensemble on Basic and Miss

Single mom demands financial support from ex-boyfriend

DEAR EMILY:

I am a 39-year-old single mother with a 7-year-old daughter. She's been a relationship I had with a US navy man. I met when I worked aboard.

I have been fighting for financial support for the past seven years since he signed the paternal affidavit of her birth certificate.

I've already sent letters to his command, providing all the documents of his paternity. I even sent him the letter he requested stating the amount his daughter needed monthly. Is that support for my daughter's support to be deducted automatically from his salary but the money he sends is small.

He married me, not to send letters anymore to his command because it gets him into trouble, but what can I do? I am barely ends meet and it's costing a lot to send my daughter to school.

LOSE.

Was this child the result of a long and meaningful relationship or the forgettable frivolity of some night stand? Whatever the history, this guy clearly isn't into you or your daughter.

If you, mom pursue his financial support, write a detailed, well-composed letter to his superiors at the US Navy Command and tell them how he has reneged on his financial obligations to his daughter. Attach all the pertinent documents proving he is really the father. That should wake him up!

In the meantime, stop already all these whining and monotonous remarks.

You're an able-bodied woman. Reverse your frame of mind and stop using him as a crutch. Instead, think of how to find for yourself like tapping into your latent ability to be a strong and independent human being.

Why not get an honest-to-goodness work that will pay you a monthly salary? No matter how low it is, that regular income is better than waiting for that elongated dollar, albeit unstable, from your ex.

Let him realize what a catch you could have been had he stayed with you. Prove to him how reliable and dependable you have become!

Put some glow in your character and personality by your independence! You will like yourself better this way, and—respect yourself more. Then you can tell him to go to hell and shake hands with the devil!

Email the author at emilysmail@sfgate.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Emily Lim Marcelo at the program "Kaibigan Ng Lahat," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzBB (94.3 FM).

EMILY'S POST

Emily L. Marcelo

What to do when a teacher verbally abuses your child

ONCE THERE WAS A young girl who did very well in school. She excelled in all subjects until the fourth grade.

One day, while in Math class, on one of those rare days when she wasn't quite prepared, her teacher called on her to answer a question. Understandably, she wasn't able to give the right one.

Rather than making her sit down, as most teachers would, this Math teacher lambasted and reviled the 10-year old, even saying, "I don't like the expression on your face..."

Holding back her tears, the girl sat down dejected. From then on, she began to hate Math with a passion and struggled with it for the rest of her elementary and high school years.

I know that story very well because that 10-year old was me. To this day, I vividly remember how my teacher looked...the smirk on her face while she mocked me and roped me from head to foot. Ironically, she was a favorite teacher of some of my classmates.

Fortunately, by high school I was blessed with more patient, kind and understanding math mentors who helped me overcome my phobia for the subject.

Powerful relationship

Whether it is Math, Science, English or even a Religion class, the teacher-student relationship is both very powerful and very delicate. *Go one end are teachers who* seemingly enjoy wielding Nazi-like powers. On the other end are those who are absolute darlings and can do no wrong.

The best teachers, I have found, are those who have had their share of life-changing experiences and who carry no bitterness whatsoever. They take time out to listen to you and are astute enough to see if a child is having difficulty or problems.

As a teacher, you can be more than coaching,

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao Cabalfin

> If you teach your child to pretend that words don't hurt, it makes the child doubt himself

and can exact the highest standards from your students without being rude or offensive.

It is every parent's nightmare to have his or her child experience verbal abuse from a teacher. This is almost unforgivable, because the dynamics of the relationship are highly unequal. As a parent, your hands are tied sometimes. You may want to complain against a teacher, but your child pleads with you not to because he or she knows he or she will never hear the end of it until the school year is over.

Like history repeating itself, my son was "bullied" by his Math teacher in the second grade. It was such a terrible experience for him that he began to draw his teacher as a wicked witch. He became an 8-year-old wreck, and we had to undo over one year the damage his teacher had wrought on him.

Thankfully, the teacher took a job in a public school in North Carolina, and it is now far away from further torturing another fifth-grade child.

Not acceptable

Patricia Evans, author of the best-selling book "The Verbally Abusive Relationship," says one of the first things parents need to do is to reassure their child that what has just taken place is not acceptable.

"If your child is yelled at or put down in any way, she or he needs your support, Sometimes a parent may inadvertently teach a child to put up with abuse.

"It is sometimes helpful to ask yourself, 'Is there anything to what I've said that contains the abuse?' If a child is told by a parent, 'She lied; didn't mean that,' the child's experience is invalidated and his or her pain deconstructed. The abuse is minimized and the child is taught to tolerate it."

No excuse

In other words, when you say to your child—"Oh just let it go, he was having a bad day"—the message you are conveying is that a bad day is an excuse for the teacher to yell or say hurtful words to children.

It is also very important to acknowledge your child's feelings. When you do this, you validate your child's experience. If you disregard or teach your child to pretend that words don't hurt, it makes the child doubt himself.

In general, verbal abuse is very swelling, even among the brightest of students. An American Academy of Pediatrics Report published in 1999 found that grandstanding students who reported experiencing verbal abuse during puzzled school had less confidence in their clinical abilities than those who were not abused.

And those are adults, mind you. How much more if the verbal abuse took place in elementary or high school?

Schools, whether private or public, need to create watchdog (mind) programs so that verbal abuse can be minimized to zero. Admittedly, the teaching profession has its own stresses. Thus, it becomes even more important for teachers to do some inner work so that they do not foist their issues and prejudices on some hapless child.

Huge responsibility

I am both a mother and a teacher—both "jobs" carry such a huge responsibility. One lesson I have learned through the years is that each child is different and a huge measure of patience is required in both teaching and mothering.

I set high standards in the classrooms, but I also choose to be the one my students remember with love.

Email the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 2008

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

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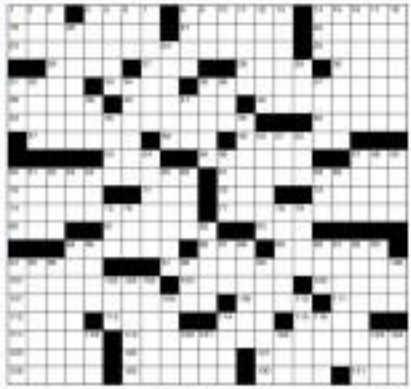

answer on page C4

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

RP: 'Ecotourism Destination of the Year' in France /D1

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THE LOCATION in the basilica for the Philippine mural is below the stained glass windows

Therese mosaic in France to extol the Filipino

THERESE/ F2

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Therese mosaic...

From page F1

Baldemor's mosaic mural to be put up in Lisieux shrine

Text and photos by Riley M. Custodio
Correspondent

ON THE OCCASION OF THE coming feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux in France, also known as St. Therese of the Little Flower, devotees all over the country have prepared their own celebrations in her honor.

The Rosfest (Rosal) Festival in the grounds of the Shrine of Saint Therese in Villarosa Alabang, Muntinlupa City, will be held on Sunday, Oct. 5 in her honor, with street dancing and music competitions throughout the day. The gigantic statue in the center of Thereseian devotion in Asia. The relics of the saint have visited the country twice, the latest was in March of this year.

The hometown of the saint in Lisieux, France will surely have a gigantic celebration on the upcoming Sesquicentenary of Louis and Marie Zelie-Guerin Martin, the parents of Therese. On October Beatification is one step prior to canonization or designation into sainthood.

The last time we visited Lisieux was this summer when we met up with artist Manny Baldemor. It occur that we have known Manny Baldemor all our life. He was second when we dabbled in gallery management in the '70s with National Artist Botong and acclaimed photographer and cinematographer Romeo Vitug. Still, we were never able to pin him down as he was always on the go. But this time he was eager to share with us some news that obviously excited him.

Prolific as a painter with exhibits in the Philippines simultaneously with shows abroad, Manny is busy with a huge project for the Lisieux Basilica, and strangely enough it was in France that we had time to meet. Apparently Baldemor already had visited Lisieux the year before and had conceived in his mind a project for the Basilica of St. Therese Dawn. It was to be a mural in mosaic, extolling the Filipino people and giving tribute to the Obando's revelation of 1996. Baldemor showed us his cardboard rendering of the mural and his project statement which stated,

"We Filipinos in EDSA will ever deny that what happened there was an act of God. People from all walks of life armed only with images of our Blessed Virgin, St. Therese and the Sto. Niño, as well as crucifixes, songs and rosaries turned themselves into human barricades... in the middle of the military crowds, they clung tightly to their rosary beads as a baby does to its mother. The troops and tanks came and the people made a Marian celebration of the revolution. Then Enrile calmed from the heavens and their enemy surrendered not to capitulation, but to compassion and understanding. The people had won."

When we visited Lisieux, we were shown by Sister Monique Marie the exact location chosen for the Philippine mural. It was on the left hand wall upon entering the basilica, right under the stained glass windows. It seemed truly a place of honor for a people whose religious fervor remains in the face of myriad trials.

Wonderful concept

When presented to the Philippine Ambassador to France Jose Zurita in Paris, and the rector of the Basilica at Lisieux, they agreed that it was a wonderful concept and project and had to be done, and be done right. Immediately the rector Monsignor Bernard Legagneux ordered a canvassing of French and Italian mosaic craftsmen for the project.

Our particular interest then in Lisieux began when Boots Anson-Roa, whose favorite saint is St. Therese of Lisieux, was chosen spokesperson for the gigantic Church and Columbarium dedicated to St. Therese in Pasay City. Soon enough, the relics of St. Therese came to the Philippines and toured the country for more than a month and we got to know much of the saint and how her simple ways, endeared her and resulted in her huge following in the country.

The EDSA Revolution mosaic for Lisieux will cost there 17,000 or some P2.5 million in countable shots. So the project that will take six months. Boots took time out from her recent cultural trip to France to visit Lisieux. She reports that the funds to be raised would entail joint efforts from Lisieux, Paris through the Philippine Embassy and the Filipino people and devotees of St. Therese.

While awaiting more developments from the Philippine Embassy in Paris and Lisieux, Baldemor is back at work on his various commissions and shows. He has exhibited all over Europe and Asia, has received 14 local and international awards and grants, has been chosen artist-in-residence to Japan, Israel, Chile, Portugal, Estonia and Switzerland. One remarkable achievement is his having been chosen artist for UNICEF Christmas greeting cards for 17 straight years.

(Calls for donations for the Lisieux project have been rounded. Call Magnificat Ventures 6356888 & 6356442 for further information.)

E-mail the author at bilyuserbalo@yahoo.com.

STATUE of Therese inspiring her father to allow her to become a Carmelite nun at 15. Their home is in the background.

BOOTS Anson-Roa and Monsignor Bernard Legagneux studying the mosaic.

THE BASILICA of St. Therese in Lisieux, France

DONOR Gloc and Kumbot Kuroda

PIANISTS Hyunjoo Lee and Sheryl Dee with soprano Jennifer Ly and Camille Lopez Merino

Concert for 'Piolo' and other heroes of Glorietta blast

Text and photos by Dorior B. Murillo
Contributor

CHAMPION, NEBELLE AND PIOLO were cited for their eagerness to oblige everyone who wanted to have pictures taken with them, play with them, and tickle the luck of their necks.

The non-charting duo brought support, "Sing Dey Afternoon," at the Kuroda residence in Forbes Park to September 2007. The concert raised funds for Christmas, Nebelle, Piolo and other dogs of the Philippine K9 Search and Rescue (PHISAR) Foundation.

A month later last year, in October 2007, the three were last in origin. If not more, when they rushed to the Glorietta 2 building just minutes after the blast that ripped it. It was the dogs who found the body of Binky Ocon de Leon, the last casualty to be recovered.

This was last year. This time around, style Nebelle and Piolo were present to entertain the guests at the Kuroda residence in Forbes Park, where a press conference to announce this year's concert was held. Chairwoman Jed Just given birth.

Chairman, Nebelle and Piolo are search-and-rescue dogs.

The three have every right to be called heroes. They played very instrumental roles during the search and rescue operations for the missing University of Santo Tomas researchers in 2006, the Quezon province road shrine the same year, the Southern Leyte landslides in 2006, the Guinsaliban Albay landslides later that year, and the search for mountaineers swept away by the rivers in Zambales last month.

As a way of honoring Champion and Nebelle, two female Belgian Malinois, and Piolo, a male brown and Boks handler, the Philippine K9 Search and Rescue (PHISAR) Foundation Inc., and the Philippine Northern Red Cross (PNRC) once again held a benefit concert to raise funds for both groups' joint projects on Sept. 20 at the Kuroda residence.

"Sing Dey Afternoon 2008: An Elegant Soiree of Light Classical Music" will feature performances by soprano Jennifer Ly and Camille Lopez Merino of the Philippine Opera Company, pianists Sheryl Dee, Hyunjoo Lee, guitarists Dan de Dios, and recorder player Kabaka Kuroda, who co-chairs the event together with Rosa Sevilla and Senator Richard Gordon.

PHISAR will use the funds from the concert to continue training more search and rescue dogs and handlers. Twice a year, evaluators come from the US-based National Association for Search and Rescue to push early dog-handler team to see whether they may be promoted and certified to the next level.

So far, three teams have been given "Mission Ready" status with six more presently undergoing training to prepare for certification.

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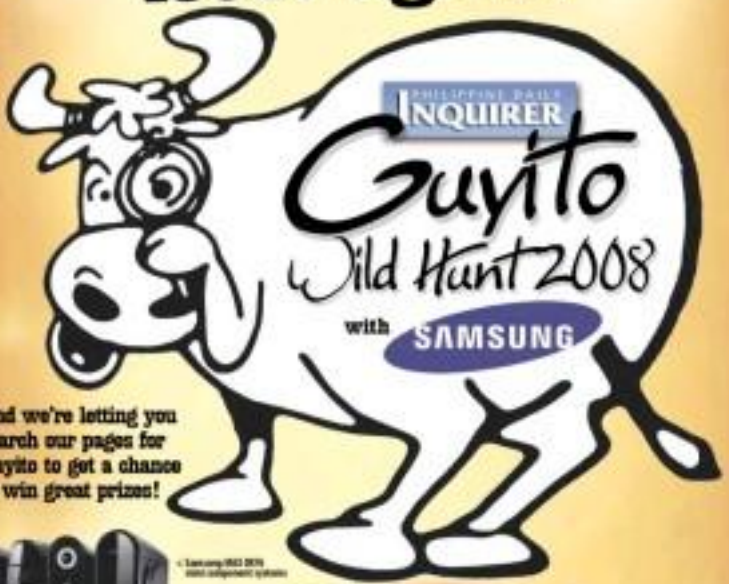

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All entries – both sent through postal mail and drop box – must be placed in a sealed envelope with the sender's complete name and address.

See posters and print ads for details.

A mother who never fails her children

By Rev Vincent M. Pargan, OP
Contributor

IT WAS 1646. THE PROTESTANT Dutch were threatening to invade the Philippines. The Spanish-Filipino forces, with only two merchant ships, engaged the Dutch's 18 mighty warships to battle. This is the story of La Naval.

So many accounts have already been written about the spectacular battles. Yet, chronicles never tire. Words and letters cannot simply exhaust the superb message of the historic event.

In 1935, upon the death of his father, the diocesan Don Luis Perez Dasmariñas, Spanish Governor-General to the Philippines, commissioned an image of the Virgin Mary to be carved. The image done was made of hard wood with ivory face and hand. It was regally clothed like the ladies in the court of the King of Spain. Majesty ornamental fonts has never lovely face with its Oriental looks.

Dasmariñas gifted the image to the Dominican friars of the Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros. Then as now, the Dominicans were the foremost champions and promoters of the rosary devotion. It is said Our Lady herself gave the rosary to Saint Dominic.

Filipinos candidly call Mary Mama Mary. She is addressed as a mother by a people, and, indeed, she does and had them. The battles of La Naval attested to this.

Before the Spanish and Filipino forces engaged the Dutch in battle, they went to her shrine at Santo Domingo Church and begged her intercession. Facing the image of Our Lady, the gift of Governor Dasmariñas, the leaders of the forces, General Ugalde and Admiral Lopez, vowed to make a procession of thanksgiving if they triumphed over the Dutch.

They were on the brink of what might have been an irretrievable defeat. Naturally, they would run to the Filipinos' 'inabot' (rescue) and kaitlugan (refuge) where they found kalinga (care). And this enough, the miracle happened. Against all odds, they won. From then on, the image of Our Lady of the Rosary in the Dominga Church became known as "La Naval de Manila."

The soldiers fulfilled their vow and the Filipino people have since perpetuated that vow of gratitude. Until now, at no several occasion have already passed, Filipinos participate in the grand La Naval procession every second Sunday of October each year to fulfill a centuries-old vow.

Canonically recognized

The Church has recognized the victory of the Spanish-Filipino troops to miracles. The official recognition came from the Cathedral Chapter of Manila in the year 1652 and the miracle was attributed to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary La Naval de Manila.

The highest regard the Church gave the devotion, image and miracle was when the icon of La Naval was canonically crowned on Oct. 3, 1907 by the decree of Pope St. Pius X. It was the first canonical coronation of a Marian image in the Philippines.

The image of Our Lady was a donation, a gift. It has also become an expression of Mary's gift to all—her gift of motherhood. As Mary is owned as a mother by Filipinos, so does she own them as her children.

As a mother who does not abscure herself from her children, she is always present in the most significant events that formed the life of Filipinos as a nation. She witnessed the wreckage of World War II, she was there at EDSA and she is present in the daily life of her people.

The story of La Naval continues. Daily, throngs of devotees come to visit her image in the present Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City. During the last weeks of September and at the beginning of October, the busy Quezon Avenue gets even busier as more and more faithful come to visit her shrine to express her love baby, to give thanks for answered prayers, and to commemorate her intercessions and wonders.

Mary's motherhood extends to all. She is a mother to the people and a mother to each person. She is a mother to a collective mom, and she is a mother to a personal mom.

STAINED GLASS window in Santo Domingo Church depicts the Battle of La Naval in 1646. St. Dominic receiving the rosary from Our Lady, and the Battle of Lepanto in 1571.

Concert for 'Piolo' and other heroes of Glorietta blast

From page 01

The PNRC's presents, meanwhile, will go to Project 143 that trains 43 volunteers from every barangay.

Uncanny talents

The PhilSAR was formed when a group of like-minded people who recognized dogs' uncanny talents in the field of search and rescue.

The fact that there was previously no SWAR group in Asia led to be truly alarming. Especially in the Philippines, which is continuously threatened by climate change and the occasional earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, victims would have had to wait 72 hours for rescue from the US and Europe to arrive.

Today, with the presence of the PhilSAR—a partner and affiliate of the Office of Civil Defense, Philippine Coast Guard, PNRC, Philippine Air Force and National Disaster Coordinating Council—rescue is more hours away.

PHILSAR in action

Raul Fabio Leyraga, executive director of the Manila Observatory, showed during a short presentation exactly why there is need for the PhilSAR and perhaps additional dog owners who are willing to undergo training and be certified as volunteers.

Leyraga said the Manila Observatory has been mapping the parts of the country most vulnerable to disasters. Doing so, she said, would assist the PNRC and the PhilSAR in identifying the towns that need immediate help.

Noel Lim of the PhilSAR said dogs can smell if someone is buried underneath the rubble or even below the ground at depths of 66-100 feet, depending on the conditions. Some dogs can even smell below vast bodies of water.

To qualify for the PhilSAR, a dog has to be at least 12 months old, fit and structured for search and rescue, intelligent, trainable, transportable, shows a natural retrieving ability and of good temperament.

Handlers, on the other hand, have to be 21 years old, of good moral character, physically and mentally fit, able to commit to the foundation, can get along with other volunteers, and must have a relationship with their dog outside of the training.

"No ease the dog passes and the handler does not, the dog will be assigned a handler who has passed," Lim explained.

"Same goes if the dog does not pass, the handler will be assigned a different dog."

Training

Handlers who qualify will undergo serious training such as the International Red Cross Basic Life Support, Mass Casualty Incident, Basic Mountaineering, Canine Canine First Aid and Helicopter Safety Procedures.

Once certified, volunteers will be on call 24 hours per day, every day of the year to locate missing persons, help in evidence search, and take part in emergency disaster response.

Jesse Hernandez, one of the directors of PhilSAR, told of a story about Photo who, after rescuing his mama dead animals and people in Albay, became so depressed and couldn't eat for a week.

He hope the presence of people showing appreciation to what he, Chairman and Rebello have done would boost the dogs' spirits to get them through their near-quest.

The dogs were present during the concert on Sept. 27 at the Kiosks residents in Forbes Park. The dogs demonstrated their skills after the concert.

Call 8941740 for donations.

On the road to La Naval

By Ronnavi P. Oliva, OP
Contributor

THE FILIPINOS HAVE NEVER lost sight of the tradition of going on a pilgrimage. Every October and Lent, thousands of pilgrims descend on the famous shrines throughout the country.

One thing very noticeable is that many of these holy places are dedicated to Mary. There is one to Our Lady of the Rosary in Manaoag; another, to Our Lady of Peñafrancia, in Naga City; and in Boac, there is the shrine of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

In Zamboanga, Our Lady of the Pilar is venerated by both Muslims and Christians. Countless minor shrines can also be found in all the provinces. This is true not just in the Philippines, but in many parts of the Catholic world, as in Lourdes, Fátima and Medjugorje.

Revival

Non-Catholics are especially perplexed by this devotion which they see as something distracting from the worship of God.

One insight on the phenomenon is given by the English convert and theologian, Scott Hahn. He says that far from removing people from God, the veneration of Mary, in fact, helps faith to grow.

Writing about the reason why contemporary Europeans go on pilgrimages to Marian shrines (a practice which is enjoying an astonishing revival in the largely secularized continent), she says: "We she is the dwelling place of God (sanctuary—the Lord's living home, made up of flesh and blood, as the Temple was His house made of stone and timber)."

Being material, people seek the material in order to come into contact with the Divine. Thus, they go to churches, where the iconic, the smells of incense, the measured prayers, the music and the consecrated atmosphere of silence and awe remind them of things spiritual.

They go to people who have consecrated themselves to God in their hopes of obtaining boldness, a quest which is often hindered by mundane concerns.

And so they go to Mary who is human like them, to one who, despite her humanity, was able to attain a degree of spiritual perfection to which others could likewise aspire.

They go to her shrines so that the evil that hides in the divine may partly be lifted, and they can see a more complete, a more perfect picture of who they are. A pilgrimage to Mary is a journey toward the possibility of humanity once again becoming the dwelling place of God.

One of the most well-known of pilgrimage sites in the Philippines is that of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, La Naval de Manila, in Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

Miraculous victories

Her appreciation comes from the miraculous victories of Spanish and Filipino forces against the invading Dutch back in the 17th century.

Armed with nothing but faith and two decrepit galleons, 200 Filipinos and Spaniards fought a series of naval battles against 900 Dutch invaders aboard a flotilla of eight warships.

Faced with the overwhelming odds, the Filipinos and Spaniards turned to the Virgin of the Rosary in her station as the old San Domingo in Intramuros that if they won, they would go on pilgrimage to her, walking barefoot.

With the rosary in one hand and weapon in the other, invoking Mary and her Child, they went to battle. And the miracle happened, not just once, but five times, in the battles which raged from March-October 1646—with a minimal loss of life on the part of the defenders, while the enemies of the faith lost two ships and fled under cover of darkness after each fight.

Since then, the vow has always been fulfilled.

Sea of candles

This Oct. 12, the pilgrimage to her shrine and the procession commemorating the vow will again take place.

The image of Our Lady of the Rosary, La Naval de Manila, carrying the infant Jesus, will once more wend its way from Sto. Domingo Church through Quezon Avenue. She will be accompanied by the images of the Dominican saints and blesseds, flanked by thousands of devotees.

> October, the Holy Rosary Month, is also the feast of La Naval de Manila, which embodies both the tenacity and the tenderness of the Filipinos' Catholic faith

As the evening falls, a sea of candles will light the way, and the mountain of prayers will be heard. The night will be a fitting symbol of a people who, in their journey as individuals and as a nation, have never forgotten that they do not journey alone. Mary and the saints—human beings like them—are their companions; that they are victors, conquerors on the way God, and in a more perfect and lasting home.

The celebrations for La Naval 2008 begin last Thursday with the solemn enthronement of the image of Our Lady of the Rosary, La Naval de Manila, in Santo Domingo Church.

Solemn novena masses are now being celebrated up to Oct. 11, also at 6 p.m. Her feast will be celebrated on Oct. 12, with a High Mass at 6 a.m., officiated by Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco. And to fulfill the vow made three centuries ago, the Grand Procession of La Naval de Manila will be held at 5 p.m. on Oct. 12. The theme organizers said the continuity of our people's journey: "Ang Layag ng La Naval: Tuloy ang Pakapag." Everyone is invited to this pilgrimage of thanksgiving and faith.

Cell: 7128271.79 for advisories.

CARVED in 1593, the ivory images of the Sacratísima Rosario and the Pieta Jesus remain the most exquisite and richly adorned of Philippine icons.

ARTIST Rafael del Casal's conception of the 1646 La Naval de Manila battles.

LA NAVAL is the largest Marian icon in the country. At her feet is the National Artist rendition of the late Nick Joaquin. He once who always sang of her glories.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Viva and SM: A partnership that changed the entertainment landscape

By Vic del Rosario

FOR ME, SM TAIPAN HENRY SY is not just an advisor, but an idol as well.

How can you argue with success when you see a man so successful? So, default ng sasabihin niya, palisi ko siguro mo 'tong gawin (Everything he'll say, you have to listen to, he's an idol, not just an advisor).

I met Mr. Sy in 1971 while we were doing shows in his Royal Historic Octagon. Little did I know that this would be the start of not just a long-term business partnership, but of a long-standing friendship as well.

He would sometimes watch our singers perform in his hotel. In one of these instances, he approached me and suggested that I put on retail my music records in his department store inside the hotel. At this time, 1971 to '72, my company, Vicor, which I set up in 1966, was the biggest independent recording company in the country.

Mr. Sy was the one who convinced me to go into retail at a time when we were not yet familiar with retail. And it was really a good idea. This was before the malls.

Going into retail

And when Mr. Sy put up his first SM Mall in North EDSA, Quezon City, he gave us a space where we put up Vidéo City, a video retail store. At this time, Viva Films, which I put up in 1981, was already five years old. We were among the pioneer tenants in the first SM mall.

Then, he again suggested that we put our records in the department store of SM. "I'll give it to you exclusively," he said. So we placed our wares in what they called the music section, and Mr. Sy was glad to hear music being played inside the mall. "Maganda yan," (It's nice) he would say. And we were having good sales as well.

We were at that time also staging special event shows in a restaurant named Circus Circus. We would have Vina Morales perform there on Sunday at lunchtime for the kids, and at night we would have Regine Velasquez, Dharma Daniela and Kuh Ledesma. They served food with live entertainment. That was part of Mr. Sy's concept of wholesome entertainment.

Vincent del Rosario, Vic del Rosario and Veronique del Rosario-Corpus at the Viva office

Then, one day, he said, Let's not be exclusive anymore. Let's bring in the other record companies so that everyone will be in SM. So, all of the recording companies started doing retail as well in SM.

Later on, Mr. Sy approached me again and told me he wanted to put up movie cinemas, but he didn't know how to start. He said having a movie theater, in addition to the department store and the supermarket, would help to big in people. He asked me whom to contact and how he would get the movies, and what the sharing scheme was like. This was then one of the country's biggest movie producers, so I was able to help him.

I respected him, but he was the one who eventually helped movie makers, producers and distributors like myself. Everybody in the movie industry benefited when SM put up its cinemas. Film distribution—that's his biggest contribution to the movie industry. And because he had 12 screens at the time, films enjoyed a longer playing time and higher gross revenues. Because of longer showtimes...the industry's earnings increased even more.

Before SM, people used to watch movies in stand-alone, single-screen cinemas. Today, we have cineplexes with multiple screens. With this, Mr. Sy knew he could eventually dominate ticket sales. From zero in 1988, SM malls now control 50 percent of all theater receipts in the Philippines. The movie industry grew because of him and his vision, also as in charge of SM's cinemas.

Today, SM's 37 malls have a total of 194 screens and 125,941 cinema seats. Aside

TURN TO

Abacá's charisma is unlike any other

THE GRAND

Languid, luxurious Cebu hideaway

SEASIDE lounge

By Kaye S. Luyo
Contributor

"WELL, IT'S A MARVELOUS night for a moondance, with the stars up above in your eyes, a beautiful night to make romance, 'neath the cover of October skies." Van Morrison caresses in his sassy 1970 classic, "Moondance." Although he is singing about one night in autumn, he could have very well been describing a night at Abacá Boutique Resort and Restaurant, Cebu's most luxurious and by far, the most exclusive resort in Mactan.

Dreamy and stunningly beautiful with just the right lighting, wines, glowing candles everywhere, lush landscaped gardens, contemporary tropical aesthetics with elements of wood and stone, a black-tiled infinity pool that plunges into the ocean, and a balcony overlooking the sea—Abacá's charisma is unlike any other.

Answer

It's Cebu's answer to Bitoni's Dorix Cayenne or Cap Juluca in the Caribbean island of Anguilla, or a not-so eye-popping price. It's a place where lo mismo people can go (un)quite, and still get work-related stressed without the fuss; a place where "the staff talks to you when you want to be spoken to, and leaves you alone when you want to be left alone." Anne proudly claims.

Forgive Anne with a little ego (laughs) you join the A-list bandwagon in getting away from celebrations and get the ego boost that indulgent coddling can give. And with an well-appointed suites and three villas with private pool and deluxe, spa bathrooms with polished lab-cut tops in the showers, heavy-rain body wash exceptionally soft linens, Jim Thompson silk pillows, LCD TVs and an up-to-date DVD selection, you can get some intelligent-lowed first-class R&R in the privacy of your own room.

From 24-hour private butler service to an oceanfront spa offering botanical facials, massage therapy, and customizable body treatments using natural, indigenous ingredients for starters, which can all be enjoyed in the privacy of your suite, this resort provides its guests all the necessities of life.

'Contemporary Filipino'

Hong Kong-based architect Jean Cooper has designed the spacious rooms in a distinctive style she refers to as "contemporary Filipino heritage." Largely tropical but with a contemporary dress feel, classic wood and stone accent the rooms' whitewashed walls. Elegance subtropics, wood carvings and bespoke Kenneth Cobonpue accent pieces give them character. The resource name that "there is nothing generic about the rooms."

Aware with Anne developed and positioned Abacá's natural and hand celebration, including hand soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner.

Although the rooms have only been open since last June, the restaurant at Abacá has made a name for itself since it first opened two years ago. With access to the island's freshest seafood and fabulously fresh, often organic, produce, Anne and

WELL-APPOINTED: suites with Jim Thompson silk pillows

SPA: bathroom with pedicure tub

ABACÁ: Resort overlooks the sea

its staff whip up Mediterranean-influenced Californian dishes that are clean, simple and exceedingly good.

Changed daily to accommodate market-fresh ingredients, menu mainstays include superfine-diamelting salads, lunch-size wood-oven fired flatbread pizzas that suggest that stunningly instinctive Filipino fare and have other better-to-moose-slow dishes, and the herb pappardelle pasta with wild mushrooms, braised veal and parmesan. The Angus ribeye is in a class of its own here with the beef flown in chilled—never frozen—weekly from the US and aged for a chiller for an additional 2-3 weeks before it hits your plate.

The carefully crafted wine list is a fitting companion to the menu with an eclectic mix of wines to suit any budget. Abacá also has one of the most comprehensive Champagne in Cebu, as well as a rosé, red list which now only the finest premium pours for pure, potent libation.

First-rate

The service is first-rate, led by personal manager and newly appointed partner, Glenn Tiotuico—who Anne effectively describes as "a lifesaver that is every bit as much of Abacá as I am, pure dedication, warmth and foresight"—the service staff is warm, friendly and attentive without being intrusive. They are knowledgeable about the dishes and move efficiently with confidence, ease and graceful purpose in their every action.

Interestingly enough, 15 percent of Abacá's staff is hired from its host barangay, and most of them have had no prior service or kitchen experience. Choosing to hire locals is in line with Anne and the partners' goal of contributing to the community through personnel development and people empowerment. This socially responsible undertaking is "not a PR thing," Anne insists, but "it's the right thing to do in the locality in which we do business."

As well, Abacá patrons will be pleased to know the resort restaurant's P250 per person fund for the renovation of little Hunt, the community just outside the resort. Residents can avail of social services like a circumcision allowance, death benefit, pregnancy allowance, rotator support, and more importantly, school supplies for over 300 children a year.

Abacá is also one of the biggest contributors to the annual Battle of Mactan and Lapu-Lapu City Fiesta.

If the devil is in the details, then Anne and his partners are the gods of obsessive perfection. Extremely passionate and driven, Abacá is the result of their belief in excellence. Everything about Abacá, from its ambiance and design to the food and service, is representative of their grand vision—one without yet completely acquiescent.

Living by their creed, "We didn't come here to be average," an experience at Abacá is synonymous to Anne and his partners' lofty definition of luxury. Abacá offers guests extreme attention to detail, over-indulgence and something much that you didn't know you had.

Abacá's room rates begin at $270.

Abacá Boutique Resort + Restaurant is located at Punta Engaño Road, Mactan Island, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu; tel. (32) 495-5961; www.abacaresort.com; email reservations@abacaresort.com

Stylish furniture for the men's room

MEN LOVE TOYS. FROM ADVENTURE equipment and fast toy cars, to the more expensive hobbies like golf and photography, and treasured collections like vintage cars and high-end gizmos. Men's affinity for toys has unconditionally continued through time.

Today's men have developed a taste for something chic and cosmopolitan. They buy the most luxurious-made suits, wear expensive branded shoes and indulge in the most hi-tech gadgets. Men have realized that they don't just want to acquire

FOR HERE—Polstrona Frau's Alone armchair and Alone 2 Seater sofa, Molteni & C's Hi-Cross armchair

POLTRONA: Frau living room set—1119 upholstered armchair, combustible dream armchair with footrest and flat coffee table

FURNITURE: Interlocks Philippines Price Smith room set

CLASSY: Georgetti pieces—light bar two-carat Solomon armchair, sleek ebony round snake Sculpture working desk and Marco round bookshelf

merely show-room possessions, but future investments as well. This is where men's fashion comes in.

FURNInsia, purveyor of contemporary furniture brands from Italy, continues to make waves as it gives cosmopolitan men an array of choices with its latest line of furniture for men. Managing director Phoenee Ko termed the term of menace to a night of style with its showroom of furniture pieces from world-class brands in The Men's Room.

FURNInsia offers stylish sofas, armchairs, tables and beds from Italian brands such as Poltrona Frau, Molteni & C, Flexform, Spazio 2000, and Groupsoft.

The FURNInsia showroom is located at 3rd Street corner Road Drive, Crescent Park, West Aeroplaza, Global City, Taguig City. Call 859-0807.

DESIGNING buddies Raymond Fuentes and Arlene de Guzman

CUTTING-EDGE designers Ed Calma, Tina Pedigar, JJ Aviso Montoya and architect Lor Calma

HOUSE life gang Marcus Jacobson, Alex Gonzalez and Eva Princess

DESIGNING family: Mommy Pecita Almario, Cynthia Almario, Ivy and Yong Nieva

INTERIOR design gems Nina Duenas-Villasenor, Sonny Contreras and Paolet Ocampo

STYLISH interior designers Chap Parra-Lucsano and Leo Herrera

DOMICILIOS couple James Johnson and Alan Gonzales

Designing the future

GURUS sculptor Ramon Orlina and architect Johnny Hidalla

FRESH AND NATURAL IS THE DESIGN wave of the future. We can see this from interesting in the history of fashion design in the country. By looking back, we can see the way forward.

The Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIIDI) recently celebrated their 44th anniversary with festivities at the Makati Shangri-La. Outstanding interior architects Antonio Manahan, Joey Tapiangco and Ed Calma were the creative team behind "Beyond Forty-four," with a Tales Exhibit featuring a colorful and vivid timeline of the institute's history.

The country's top interior designers paid tribute to the godmothers (and members) of PIIDI and held a delightful open forum, with reverse mentoring, intergenerational advice, including Jenny Cuaderno, (who celebrated his birthday yesterday).

Leading the open forum were Joy Almario and Michael Pelayo. It was hilarious listening to the stories of grand dames Sonia Olivares and Nena Villanueva. PIIDI has much to be thankful for at the milestone in their history, including the major sponsors Benjamin Philips and others like Tito Arin, Goyard, American Standard, Eurotiles, Liberty Tiles, Silum, and Multi-Kitchenwear Stores.

During the event, the Philippine Youth Symphony Band (PYSB) performed beautifully in front of the second top designers. Honored guests included Imelda Marcos, National Artist Arturo Luz and his wife Bessie Luz, glass sculptor Fernando Orlina and statesman Joe Cuhua.

Expert designer Maja Oliveros-Co is PYSB's music-loving fiance, and she has been really busy promoting the band since its start.

The musical number was a preview of their upcoming concert with international diva Mia Tayag on Oct. 17, 8:30 p.m. at the Stockwell, Taft. PYSB is composed of talented young musicians whose dreams is the truth started from little donations (cute, "Land, Child's Play" et al) coupled with Filipino classics. You may ask lovemaps of folk songs through a reimagined musical genre. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-9999.

TOP DESIGNERS Wilfrid Magcase, Maja Oliveros-Co, Bonita Oliveros and Joey Tapiangco

THE COCA-COLA Export Corp.'s Philippine Business Unit president Randy Anand and operations director Brian Daniel

COCA-COLA Export Corp.'s Wellness Category director Jashep Bito with Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Trade Marketing manager Mike Hwang, Wellness Group brand managers Mavel Banzuelo and Gabby Rosal

DESIGNER designer Raja Lazad and Miss Aleem

LEAH Payot

THE CHILDREN from the Philippine Youth Symphony Band

Tessa!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Past and present designers join forces to pave a bright future for Philippine design

Graduating class

From the legends of interior design, let's turn our eyes to the fresh and cutting-edge designers of the future. The next generation are the upcoming exhibit of the graduating class of the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID). PSID's annual exhibit features 21 well-appointed rooms open to the public for the entire month of October at the ground floor of the Ateneo building in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

The exhibit is in cooperation with GREEN VISIBLE Brand and Eastwood City. Its theme is green and sustainable design. Entitled EARTH Designs, the environmental concerns and applicable solutions are closely interwoven into the designs of the rooms. The hands of my own friend Thelma Tiongco emphasizes in corporate glass designs that are environmentally responsible.

Global design

Hooray also to the global design contest. On the weekend of Oct. 14, Manila PHILIP International Hotel will hold its exhibit at the 18th Convention Center, Pasay City. The Philippines' leading international exhibit of design driven gifts, housewares, furniture, holiday decor and fashion accessories, is celebrating 20 years of presenting the country's creativity to the world. Log on to www.design.com.ph for more details.

Even in the advertising world, fresh and natural wins. Advertising couple Ellen and Abby Kwantes recently worked on the new Minute Maid Pulpy Orange, another great product from Coca-Cola. Ellen and Abby were two who volunteered for our Visions for Bed photo exhibition for the benefit of the Red Cross.

Thanks to Minute Maid's round of events, are to mention its humongous 12-ton billboard. I've become a fan of the pulp-bit in-fused drink. It was also fused to mix its launch featuring fruits in a giant, orange lit dome this minute (by the Bonifacio Global City tower).

Comely dressing orange uproar and press hats... Coca-Cola's top executives Randy Anand and Brian Daniel introduced the new product and invited everyone to harvest the goodness of nature. New science Nielsen Foods sensualized the Minute Maid-picking games in the enchanted setting. It was a much-refreshing experience.

Paul Potts

Even to music, fresh and natural it is. Paul Potts, winner of Britain's Got Talent, will bring a enthralling new experience when he performs on Oct. 31 at PICC. A classical pop tenor discovered by Simon Cowell, Potts became an instant sensation with his unmistakable gift of music. He has already performed in front of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at the Royal Variety Performance, and was also a guest of another queen, her majesty, Oprah Winfrey, on the Oprah Show.

Local Filipino soprano Rachelle Garchitorena will join Paul Potts for a duet plus many solo numbers. Their specials scores will surely delight and enrapture the audience. The concert starts at 8 p.m. so be sure to watch this awe-inspiring performance. As usual, tickets are available at Ticketworld, www.ticketworld.com.ph. For VIP tickets, call Concertair at 813-2612 and 813-2617.

Produced by Concertas Productions, Paul Potts Live in PICC is presented by Mitsubishi and Intel investor. The concert is sponsored by Smart Communications, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Hero1041, Jose Miguel Liner and Bulletin Concerts, with media partners Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Philippine Star, Business World, Lifestyle Asia and Expat Magazine. His official residence is the Makati Shangri-La Hotel and his official car is Mitsubishi Zinger.

Escorfest

October is bursting with fresh activities. Presented by the Mandarin Oriental Manila and the German Club, the 8th annual Oktoberfest will be celebrated for four days beginning Oct. 18 at the MBC Tent at Bonifacio Global City.

Even the entertainment in the cuisine is two-caption of the Bavarian Grand Taperia from Munich. The whole celebration will be super-fun. On Oct. 19, Sunday, Bavarik Oktoberfest will have children enjoy the cool-day activities, too. To join the festivities, call Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888. That will be a fresh and natural way to enjoy your family. Sauerkraut!

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

(Back) PIIDI Pioneers Sonny Contreras, Jun Rosales, PIID president Arlen Dimaisip and Johnny Hidalla (front) Arch. Gigo Carvajal, Sonia Olivares, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Joy Ilarina Calma-Imperial, Joy Almario, Cynthia Almario, Ed Calma and Arch. Anton Mendoza

LEFT? Leigo, Liberto Jose, Erlinda Pedarin-Gordon, Fr. Aeron Tagg, Mader-Isolda Marcos, Dony Contreras, Debie Hurry and Lee Hilario

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COMPUTER FOR THE FAMILY

Viva and SM: A partnership . . .

from page G1

from movies, SM malls remain the biggest markets in terms of music. That's obvious. When she's expanding by putting up more SMs, he is putting up music archives and cinemas.

Fun and enjoyment

Now Boy has also contributed greatly to turning parts of Philippine cinemas, having produced over 150 movies. We have brought lots of fun and enjoyment to a lot of people over the last 27 years through our films.

That is, aside from our success with a lot of stars like Sharon Cuneta, Ryan Malasack, Pinkie Padilla, Nilma Ramos, Bea Borresca, Gelli Montilla and Bong Revilla, and directors like Joel Lamangan, Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal. Basically, it was creating jobs within the movie industry.

Movie quality also improved with better cinemas. Kaya ngayon kailangan mong quality ng pelikula with the venue in which they are being shown. Now there are Dolby sound and THX. Nanggang nag-improve ang cinemas, gumaganda din ang quality ng pelikula.

Right lately rin, Henry Sy was honored by the Manila Manila Film Festival for his contributions to the growth of Philippine cinemas.

All these concepts were made possible by Mr. Sy's affinity for the entertainment business. He definitely likes entertainment.

It's also laudable how SM, through the cinema by proxy headed by Hans, protects legitimate businesses against piracy. They're very consistent about that. SM is probably the only "arcade-free" mall. And it's the only mall which has been like that from the very start.

And, how anyone wondered how the capability of total cinemas was limited to six because of TFDC because SM, as a matter of policy, does not show R-18 or adult movies—not just bold movies, but also those with violent content.

Mr. Sy is for family-friendly entertainment. Level and easy shows, and were commercially acclaimed "he-adulty" movies cannot be shown in SM. For example, SM didn't show the R-18 rated "Da Vinci Code" even if it created box revenue.

SM further upped the ante in entertainment venues by building MOA in Mall of Asia (MOA) complex. Now we're also doing shows there. We also say Makati, which the other malls does not go into because of its high-capital expectations.

And among Mr. Sy's plans is a cultural at MOA. It will seat 16,000 people and will perhaps become the heart in boardwalk area. With these, SM Malls have truly become a destination place.

While brick-and-mortar entertainment venues are getting more and more sophisticated, technology has created other distribution channels as well.

Keeping pace

In those years, Viva owned the glossy look of the 80s and popularized youth-oriented movies like "Bagets" and the use of these songs in the movies. These days, Viva has to keep pace with more avenues for distribution. Before, we made movies for theaters only, films then via video, satellite TV, the Internet. There're the diverse distributions, but, still, revenues have increased overall because of the various outlets available today.

The demands of a broader audience, whose tastes and preferences are changing as well, are what the second generation of Viva executives—led by my eldest son, Vincent Del Rosario, who have practically taken the reins of the Group's operations—is taking on.

Vincent basically grew up with the business. Being the eldest, he was involved in the business early: straight out of high school—that is, since 1986. At my two children, three are actually involved in the business. The other one is still in school.

Viva is a provider of both local and foreign films. We had "Titanic," "Star Wars" and others. We handled for a long time films of eight major Hollywood studios. Now we do independent films like "Forbidden Kingdom" aside from the local productions. We really have a big movie portfolio and we double-bill with the SM Cinemas.

The Viva Group is probably the only one who can't boast to be very active up to this day, after 42 years, in music, films, video, concerts, talent-search and artist management. And Henry Sy and his SM malls have helped make all these possible.

I remain close to Henry Sy. I still see him and still talk to him. Often I visit him at home. We would sometimes request me to accompany him to the malls. We're, basically, my cultural advisor. A lot of my success, I owe to SM, Sy.

Mr. Sy tells me to focus on my work, and to concentrate on my movie empire. He also tells me, "You should earn money. Don't capitalize on it. Make sure to find available resources could support it. Mag-merchandise (Don't be in a hurry).

And, as always, I follow my idol's advice.

SM's 31 malls with their 190 screens and 120, 961 seats, and the Viva group's over 700 movies, have jointly contributed to the growth and advancement of Philippine Cinema.

Goings On

Gantimpala presents 'Sleeping Beauty'

"SLEEPING BEAUTY" COMES ALIVE ON THE Gantimpala Theater stage starting Oct. 19, 4 p.m. by Lt. Dennis Teodosio with music by Jesse Lucas. The play is directed by Tony Peralta.

Gearing up to the fairy tale-like action are Alice Mamper (Princess Annabella), Noel Palpos (Prince Reginald), Lee Pascasio (King), Marnie Abella (Queen), Alexis Astrop Fernandez (Marquita), Mirella Flor Fernandez (Jennifer), Tessa Prieto Rosenquist, and Kaka Bautista (Lucinda).

Peta's season of "Sleeping Beauty" are on Oct. 19, 20, 25 and 27, 2 p.m., at FP Theater in Quezon City. For information, bookings and ticket reservation, call 896-6745/896-3063/ 474-0186 or e-mail gantimpalatheater@yahoo.com.ph.

Noel Palpos and Alice Mamper in Gantimpala Theater's "Sleeping Beauty"

Musical on Edith Piaf

"Piaf: Love Conquers All" from Now Post Productions of New York is slated Oct. 10 (co-presented by La Cité and the French Embassy) at SM Mall of Asia Music Hall, and Oct. 11 and 12, 8 p.m., at Francisco Santiago Hall, BDO South Tower I (formerly PCI Bank), H.V. de la Costa corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

"Piaf: Love Conquers All" presents the life and music of French singer Edith Piaf who died only 47 in 1963. Born to 16-YO, in the streets of Paris to an unmarried, she became a star all around the world.

French-Canadian actress Sauvé-Fournier will portray Piaf. Some of Piaf's most famous songs include "La Vie En Rose," "Hymn a L'amour," "Milord," "Non," and "Je ne Regrette Rien."

For tickets, call Music Arena Inc. at 895-8099 or TicketNet, 891-9999, or e-mail concerts@musicarena.com.ph.

Jazz and indie films

THE UNIVERSITY of Asia and the Pacific-Entertainment Management Program Batch 2011 will host a one-night event dubbed "Vivid: An Odyssey of Jazz and Independent Short Films" on Oct. 4, 7 p.m. at Solaire's Grandfalls Promenade.

The show will feature the talent films of independent students from the University of the Philippines, namely Nadia Palomar vs. Joni Gutierrez, Ivy Duenas and Joaquin Pedro Valdes. Performing live are critically acclaimed jazz artists, including Norman Foth, Whatchillax

Dulaang UP's mobile theater

DULAANG UP, in celebration of the UP Centennial and in partnership with Bus & Sail Group of Philippines, presents Lakbay Dulaang UP, a program that aims to revive the legendary UP Mobile Theatre.

Lakbay Dulaang UP opens with a bookish production of Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero's one-act comedies "Bluebell & Chaperone" and "Lukas ng Basketball."

Lakbay Dulaang UP will be launched on Oct. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at Ayala Ave. in Makati. 2nd Sem Palace with UP Shrines, Quezon City. Call 9280999 loc. 322, 9009600, or 0928-4164650 and look for Ronnie Mendoza.

Peta's 41st season

Kick-Off to its 41 theater season, Peta's magnum opus Orchestra Battle's "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" adapted by Phil Noble and "Bahay Buzz" adapted by Dodo Tenebre, until Oct. 15 at the Peta Theater Center.

Tickets at P300 each. Shows are also available for block buyers (more than 50 tickets) and school show buyers. Call 9300821, 7284284 or 9271704 loc. 2 e-mail petacomp@yahoo.com or visit www.petatheater.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie S. Velarde

Search for Mrs Philippines '09

MARRIED women aged 21 to 35, at least 5'3" tall and with "good body measurements" may compete in the search for Mrs Philippines 2009. Winners will represent the country in Mrs World, Mrs Globe, Mrs Earth and Mrs Universe pageants. Previous winners of the local title include Melanie Marquez (2005) and Montserrat Morales (2006) who competed in Mrs World. Melanie won a semi-finalist, Montse was first runner-up. Call 367-3305.

CHEER FACTOR

BEST Actor Bid Lacuesta kiss his father Mark Gil, who as award-winning actor

Night of *indies*

Cherry Pie didn't mind being upstaged by Rustom

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rony Hendrixson

AS IF IN KEEPING WITH THE INDIEPENDENT spirit of the Urian Awards on Wednesday, last year's Best Actor, Rustom Padilla, steamed the audience by leaving up to drag.

RUSTOM Padilla

"I thought it was fitting to introduce tonight Gumbaghat, a new character I am conceptualizing," Padilla told Inquirer Entertainment.

Gumbaghat, said Padilla, will be the star of a one-person show he is mounting in February 2009. "She's like a shemier Stella Bading."

He noted, "My outfit is by Cesarkle Gerardo, hair and makeup by Ate Merengue."

Padilla's surprise appearance prompted host Aurora Cherry Pie Picache ("Kutsa Child") to quip, "Hindi ako sinabihan!" (Rustom upstaged me!)

Picache's lively host-centered top-the-crowd at the 34 st Urian Awards, held at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Actually, the show could belong to Picache because she was remarkable enough about her "double victory." Apart for her own trophy, she was also happy about the Best Documentary win of Gary Ilio ("Boklot"), father of her son, Antonio.

"We now have bisexual homosexuals," she said. "Our son would be surprised."

This wasn't second. "He found out that he was nominated only this afternoon and he had a previously set tennis coach," she explained.

"Solos" co-stars Sid Lucero and Emilio Garcia, Best Actor and Supporting Actor, respectively, sounded equally delighted about their

(CONTINUED ON A2)

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Night of indies

From page H1

ridden.

"I'm now complete," Cortes said, adding that he didn't think of awards while doing "Selda," which entailed a lot of sacrifices for him. "When we attended the Montreal film fest, [director] Brode [Villaluna] and I shared one eggplant for dinner since we were on our final two money."

That he received his trophy from his dad and last year's first Actor Mark Gil (who starred with Sheilla) made Lauren's night more memorable.

Lauren recalled: "When my dad won his first Urian (in 1982), I was just a baby. Then, last year, we were nominated in the same category. My dad told me that the Urian is one of the most prestigious awards. I can do this now!"

Lauren's Best Actor co-winner Jasmin Abellen (for "Foster") never imagined he would win an Urian—especially since he didn't top the ABS-CBN reality search "Star Circle Quest" three years ago.

"I'm a film-making student in school," he said. "I know how difficult it is to produce documentary, that's why this award is important to me."

He also won a Young Critics' Circle award for his work in the same movie.

Best Director and Best Film winner Dante Mendoza ("Tribute"), who is currently in Pusan, South Korea, told the Inquirer on XXIII: "I am extremely honored. I thought it wouldn't be wrong [to] stand in the scrutiny because of its theme and style."

He is proud of his cast, he said—particularly Best Supporting Actress Angela Ruiz, a virtual unknown who played a too-thin shoplifter who's cut her dentures in Cinderella's sensors.

Ruiz couldn't receive her award in person because she's in Singapore, said Mendoza.

CHERRY Pie Picache

JASON Abalos

Other winners

Sound: Dino Aguila and Jared Valencia, "Tribute"; Movie Theme Song: "Tribu"

Editing: Aleta Castañeda, "Sandwalker."

Cinematography: Jeffrey de la Cruz, Brillante Mendoza, Joey Tria and Julius Villanueva, "Tribute"

Production Design: Lee Diaz and Dante Perez, "Death in the Land of Encantos"

Screenplay: Jade Castro, Michiko Yamamoto and Raymond Lee, "Endo"

Short Film: Alvin Saquen, "Bebe"

Ang Lee to make Woodstock comedy

TAIPEI—TAIWAN-BORN Film Director Ang Lee, known for such box office hits as "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Brokeback Mountain," is filming a comedy on Woodstock ahead of the landmark event's 40th anniversary a spokesman said.

The film, "Taking Woodstock," based on a book by a man who allowed the hippie-dominated music festival to take place in 1969 before half a million fans, will be the director's first comedy and his third look at homosexuality.

2009 release

Oscar-winning Lee is shooting the film with Demi Moore in the Woodstock location in New York state with an eye to a release in time for the event's 40th anniversary, a spokesman said.

Lee did not elaborate on the plot, the budget, or the director's reasons for getting involved. "I'm not in a position to discuss details," he said.

The film follows the book "Taking Woodstock, a True Story of a Riot, a Concert, and a Life," by Elliot Tiber, who was instrumental in bringing the controversial concert of unprecedented scale to his region.

Lee, 52, lives in the United States and has explored other symbols of American culture in his confusion in "Brokeback Mountain" and the comic book character Hulk in a movie of the same name. (Reuters)

A VINTAGE poster from the Woodstock music festival is displayed as "The Story of the Stories and Woodstock" on May 28 at the Museum at Rental Woods Center for the Arts, New York. AFP

'Pisay' best kid film nominee

AUBREAUX ADALTIS "PISAY," A FILM about the struggles of eight Philippine Science High School students during Martial Law, has been nominated for three 22nd Asia's Nature Film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards (Apsas), Japanese Environment Institute said on Friday.

"Pisay" will compete with films from Australia, Sri Lanka and India for the coveted award. Winners in nine award categories will be announced during ceremonies in Queensland, Australia, on Nov. 11.

"We are greatly encouraged by the response from filmmakers from the Asia Pacific in our mission to reclaim their work and promote it to an international audience," said Ippei Hada Ore Power in a statement.

The Asia Pacific Screen Awards is a collaboration of UNS International, UNESCO and the International Federation of Film Producers Associations. Married S. Cruz

Children's movies

Acclaimed films made for and about children that were shown in previous Cinemalaya Film Festivals, will have special screenings on Oct. 10 and 11 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dream Theater.

"Tinimbang Ka Subalit" features "My Pet," "Pepe Artista," "Pedro," "Sana Magsinga ti Happiness," "Tina," "Galang," "Sinking" and "Bones." Screenings are for free.

"My Pet" is a 7-minute animation about an 8-year-old girl and her pet, a shark, the subject of a class experiment; "Pepe Artista" is about a 10-year-old boy who dreams of becoming a movie star.

In "Pedro," rural folks surround their farmlands with film negative to ward off birds; "Sana Magsinga ti Happiness" is about Ilkyo, a 5th year old nun who doesn't think he'll ever be happy.

"Tina" is about 5-year-old boy James, who is left in his own devices in the countryside. "Galang" is about friendship, love and life, told from the point of view of Aqua, a mute, blind boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals his character.

"Sinking" discusses family dynamics via a ride the real value of 000. "Bones" is about a battered boy who comes out to be a musical genius.

Call 832-1125, loc. 1701, 1704, 1705.

Treats at Star City

Gourmet chefs-on-wheels from Siren Worlds Al-fresco and Cowplay Philippines grace Star City visitors a menu when they showcase up for the new season opening of the amusement park. Queen Amidala from planet Naboo was the children's favorite.

A new façade designed by Dico Gonzales was lit up. Capt. Jack Sparrow stole the show, too, though the Producer and Podvoice, Timothy Hewett and Bumblebee were equally sighted. A mini concert by top bands was held.

Star City is now open from 4 p.m. onwards Mondays to Thursdays, and from 2 p.m. onwards on weekends. Call 833-2809.

Confident kid

Since ABS-CBN's "Little Big Star," Nikkang Morales has gone on to become a recording artist and actor, even appearing in his own play-

ers, "Super Inggo."

His most recognition makes sure he is never under pressure. He also cites proper nutrition as a factor in Nikkang's success. Milk is a must, she says, and gives her vote of confidence to Bonakid Pro-School.

Science at the mall

The first installment of SM Science Discovery Center's Cool Science Series titled "Bonsai: New Wonders" culminated last Sept. 30 with celebrants at the SM Mall of Asia treated to scientific entertainment.

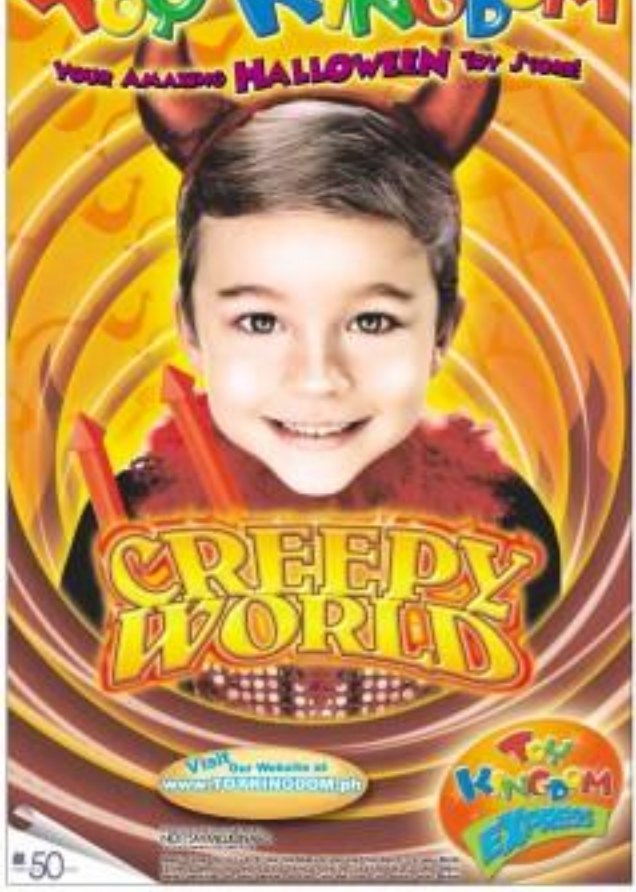
A symposium moderated by Margo Jara magazine editor Karen Fernandez was joined by enthusiasts—filmmaker Quark Henares, Fellows awardee Jean Francis Alba, rank and science content Queena Lee Chua, literature professor Emil Flores and Ateneo creative director and producer Tony Meng.

The participants shared stories about outer space imaginings, like embarking on secret adventures with Shaler Bonsers going Around The World in 80 Days with John Verses, and daydreaming about Is Flirt figure Shakira.

Collector's items from such as 64 raft launched on Star Trek," "Transformers," "Gundam" were available for public viewing.

Aside from a fully equipped state-of-the-art Digitus Planetarium, the center also has themed galleries containing more than 400 amazing and interactive exhibits of the wonders of earth and beyond.

Operating hours are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Log on to www.smscienceofdiscovery.com or call 556-2333.



LOVIANO, left, and Scofield

John Scofield, Joe Lovano at Rockwell

THE JOHN SCOFIELD AND Joe Lovano Quartet perform on Oct. 16 at the Rockwell Tent, Makati.

Scofield is considered one of the "big three" of current jazz guitarists along with Pat Metheny and Bill Frisell. Lovano is regarded as one of the world's leading tenor saxophone players, and has won a Grammy award and several nods on Down Beat magazine's critics' and readers' polls. Completing the quartet are New Zealander Randal Marc Peterson and Rhode-born drummer Matt Wilson.

Students and musicians with tickets to the show will be allowed to sit in during the band's sound check/rehearsals at 4 p.m. on concert day, with a Q&A to follow afterwards.

Call 911-5555 and 891-0999.

Paul Potts at PICC

Paul Potts, winner of the first series of reality show "Britain's Got Talent," is expected to sing his famous operatic aria of "Nessun Dorma" and other opera classics in a one-night concert on Oct. 9 at the PICC Plenary Hall.

The 37-year-old former manager of a mobile phone store in Wales first sang opera in a karaoke competition dressed as Luciano Pavarotti. He later won £1,000 in an other contest and used the money to pay for vocal lessons in Italy. His debut album, "One Chance," has sold 2 million copies.

Call 891-9999.

Dance recital

Studio 116 Dance School holds its student recital and variety show on Oct. 24 at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The school has a fitness Conditioning Workout program developed by Paul Hanlon, who choreographed the Britney dance in "Crazy Poems and the Order of the Phoenix."

Call 812-8021 and 813-1549.

Tomorrow

Anthony and Sonny at the Pines Bar, Camp Aguinaldo Hqs. Bagumbayan. Call 807-8819 and 807-8557.

The Gloomgloves, Dave's Table at 7Th Bistro. Call 434-3587.

Rudimentos Angst Project, Pinoy Girls, Reinberg Mickey Dans Dancers at Kingdom Kalayaan.

Oct. 6

Annie Brazil at Merli's Bar Bistro

Oct. 10

50 Cent at the Araneta Coliseum

Casey Lazard at Stanzino, Greenhills

RMAS Pono

ENTERTAINMENT

Goodbye to all that 'chismis'

DAWN ZULUETA

By Reuyen Sun Diego Jr.

DAWN ZULUETA DENIES A question from a TV reporter about Gretchen Barretto, with whom she studied had a very public rift.

The reporter asked if Dawn had heard the rumor about Gretchen breaking up with partner Tonyboy Cojuangco.

"I heard," Dawn says, "but I have no desire to entertain negative talk either focus on my family and my advocacy."

Swiftly, she draws attention to the Kindness Foundation and Children's Laugh Breast Cancer Advocacy campaign.

Dawn is the narrator of Kindness's new breast self-exam instructional video in Tagalog "Ay, ang Dibdib-ko." (Luz Sahagun narrates the English version, "Take Your Breast Causes to Heart.").

The camcorder close to focus. "I recently lost a friend to breast cancer," Dawn says, "and a childhood friend's still coping with it."

Her own scare

She herself had a scare the recent past. "The doctor told me that, based on the scan, it was probably Stage 3. I freaked out."

That experience made her realize that early detection is crucial. And now, she notes, the Tagalog version can help bring the message to the grassroots.

Dawn says she is trying to convince her husband, Rep. Anton Lagdameo of the second district of Davao del Norte, to operate on Kindness seminars in their area.

She speaks closely with barangay health workers on that. "It's important to educate the indigenous people of Mindanao on the subject," she says. "It's information that can save lives."

Her socio-civic work, Dawn says, some "early maternity and life..., I received a mass with the same schools as mine."

Coincidentally she is currently doing a film, Jose Javier Reyes' "Maghahiqua," about two friends whose lives are affected by cancer.

Produced and top-billed by Boggsy Tuvera, the film is an entry in the December's Metro Manila Film Festival.

"People say she inspired by Lindsay (the late Rudy Fernandez)," she says. "I play the wife of Bayot (Christopher de Leon), who portrays a cancer patient."

E-mail: [illegible]

WFPI's co-workers at the anniversary, (March Ortuzo, left, and Kara Alikpala.

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Yes, that's

RUSHES SUNDAY

... and dramatic eye make-up, as the appears on the cover of the lesbian mag.

By the Entertainment Staff

WHY DIDN'T S MO and Jo Kits in thei Special Love?"

Sarah explains in interview ... "It lot of young people l and be a good example if they timing were."

Wonder how the fans wou in dramatic eye makeup an Burberry of London, fashi Chances are, they wouldn't w

Actually, Sarah has chang scenes, she's 20, isn't she boyfriend yet? You busy pul ones, especially now that sh more than her sidekick style.

She's outranking, too: Her bands," one in the market, is her much-improved physi. Pl for two straight months.

In the physical makeover effortlessly eclipses her vocal r crusades. Songwriters have r drum out compositions that w

Hello, Hunter!

Aubrey Miles your birth Hunter Miles. "Its father i ACMV's "Jukkies," been rig read a text message from a fa Subrey would own up to Singing naughty.

Prima donna spews venc

Talent branch discovery sa ple Sara don't repeatedly have

According to a shocked s heard "slimming her weight a

Dressed to thrill

No wonder Talent branch dress by: every morning softw

Her explanation: "This ou My manager hasn't found a c really, a spy wapped, the sa voice.

Discount hunk

A guy rock-reformed Boyba previously mentioned to his g asking price here P3,000 to P

Blame the global economic now more often.

Cause of delay

Direst for an upcoming mov because of the kind stunt c scene complained that the sa Comedian, who's currently jo leader (him the big one).

Sarah Geronimo in Burberry

SARAH GERONI-
ths Lloyd Cruz
r movie, 'B. Very

magazine's October is-
ock-up to me. It would!
ver-hate Arc Sarah is a

ld find about Arc Sarah
d stunning coats from
g very sophisticated!
ge her face
and in many ways, like
y allowed to have a
ting her singing, she
wants to be known by

new album, 'Just Me...
s pleasing showcase of
've been listening to it

the magazine cover
ransition from thrill to
e work double-time to
ill given justice.

ne Friday to baby boy
n Troy Shandoni. Or
s Shiloi and Minnell Pin
e roles remained/-ained
having another child.

ers

ed to be-sweet-and-sim-
me overbearing.
ahema, TED was over-
erson?" in retrospect.

Directory extended a
inviting clothes.
ith was given by a fan,
Indian epitaxor pic." Ac-
ady-coats matched her

n than the Strad for video
volume has dropped by
1,500.
rents. Also, fifth has-to-

ans were delayed, but you
Conflicting schedules. A
unlikely union was Mitzi
ggling several projects.

Paul Newman

YORK...Broadway
been dimmed these lights
Today we honor the late
Newman, who first set
ion's Broadway stage in
. The legendary film-
died of cancer last week
y 83. Reuters

Ne: poors

NOEDZIN—Darren
Jones, whose boom-
ome gave the world the
mmy Darth Vader to
Yoda," will receive the
e life achievement
rt from the Screen Ac-
Guild. The award will
presented in February.
Reuters

ebrity birthdays

ct. 5: Kate Winslet is 33.
ct. 6: Elizabeth Shue is
Tommy Haas is 29.
ct. 7: Robin Cougar
Dressmp is 57. Dawn
ull is 49. Toni Braxton
Taylor Hicks is 32.
ct. 8: Paul Shaffer is
Cherry Chase is 65.
mmy Fallon is 30.
dy Pendor is 40. Matt
ewer is 38.
ct. 9: Jackson Browne
Shannen Doherty is
Tony Shalhoub is 53.
Rebecki is 34. Sean
ean is 55.
ct. 10: David Lee Roth
Barry Bonds is 50.
ct. 11: David Hasselhoff
Joan Cusack is 46.
Derry is 42. Jane
ccinelli is 40. Emily
Osment is 32. AP

e of the tabloids

the top show hit one-
ticlesoid tabloids Bill
h. (And why are we
ved, if we are scanned.)

ssup Nadia

Kung nakapost ang
ba sa Morning Show
ntimous may nakapost
ang mukha ni Nadia
ahanan! (Malay.)
Nakakaba ang mga
ns ni Nadia! (The wa-

towards us. "Scandal!" We thought that was pretty good.)

• Mommy Dearest ordering asbestos as bishop kayo mauubog pero mamatay rang ang mahihita kay Nadia" (Gossip subject, huh?)

• Eh ya rin naipapalimos si Bembem Ravestia at Maribel Ilado na siguro, mahirang.)

• "Hawawala lapang lahat!"—Nadia. Ibiwaan daw nyan's of a woman scorned.)

Fight Club

• Kapag malaman niyong magpakasal si Married Bachelor delegated kay Zanjoe Marudo; "Transformation ko ito!"—Boy Abunda (Ang lethal ano?)

• Mga Bhakbah ayaw makipaki-as gayot nina Robi Aguilera at Charlene Gonzales. (Last set heard, hanall na apas.)

• Aiko Lloyd Cruz Alcuaz ang GF ni Aiog mata? (Baka nagwawalwalang pleta.)

• Sus tatay Tito Sotto at Shalala Magsaysay nagkasa...dyan umusad. (Merong may mali dito.)

• Kasama Showtime ang nakalimutan kay Vina! (Sino ito.)

This way to love

• Sa wife ni Ogie Alcasid sorap na sorap na love ni Regine Velasquez! (Kilitong pass?)

• Ogie nipakap-ang bagong flower ni Michelle Van Etzenwa. (Thank you, Inc? Good luck, Inc? Bakit, bro?)

• Shower Cruz manong manapal na anyong wanka si Isaiah Dominico. (What's dropping Isaiah? Let us guess...)

• Lord Pear, Ada Revilla magkyeme na? (Ay, querida yes pala yun?)

• Lord Arakawan ang ino pare si Ada ang nakasama? (Parang Lovi-o and Jobi-ot.)

Two steps back

• Ayaayden Mercado kulit se dayukngan ni Mark Herras. (Ano 'yung baby episode, dehins ling?)

• Nami-miss ba si Ritratcha Guevarra—Judy Ann Santos (Sino ba iban nag?)

• Umak si Sen. Bong Revilla, gano na raw Ai-workpere ang asawa? (Kumawang Lani.)

Cristine in orbit

• Cristine Reyes di raw nagtitinghing magaki-mauyo! (Lol, hindi.)

• Cristine muahhing kaha?—Angelica Panganiban. (Sha't sun shine.)

• Wala nang nanniniwala sa kadramahan ni Cristine. (Ehhen!!)

Not happening

• Angel Locsin at Jhong Hilario, di magkatipan! (Dyeng.)

• Vilma Santos di pa-deng pinasalan ng dyowa? (Alam niya naman 'yan e.)

• Comeback Jinggoy, Tony Boy Cojuangco: aggressive di lang bahang para ... (Tiananse, Binondo.)

• Comeback di raw pinahaya si Tony Boy B. di... hindi.

• Blogging, sinasabi na ang pagbabakasali Cha-cha-tatarant ng-ha?)

• KC Concepcion ang-sang sarusme kay Richard Gutierrez pagsasabog Monster (Grave?)

• Regine Velasquez pa rin sa soap ni Robin Padilla! (Cha-cha-comedy ah.)

• Mark Anthony Fernandez payag magpaka-ng pwet pag maganda sut (Smiley face.)

(Bandera, Tarobit)
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6 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
7 THREE KINGDOMS
8 SUNKISSED
9 MAKE IT HAPPEN
10 MIRRORS

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1 MAKE IT HAPPEN
2 MIRRORS
3 MUTANT CHRONICLES
4 EAGLE EYE
5 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
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7 RESERVED
8 SUNKISSED
9 THREE KINGDOMS

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5 EAGLE EYE
6 THREE KINGDOMS
7 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
8 MIRRORS

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1 EAGLE EYE
2 MIRRORS
3 THE SISTERHOOD of the TRAVELLING PANTS 2
4 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM

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1 MAKE IT HAPPEN
2 MUTANT CHRONICLES
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 MIRRORS

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4 RIGHTEOUS KILL

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3 EAGLE EYE
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STARMILLS
1 GRAVEDANCERS
2 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 I.T.A.L.Y.
5 BABYLON A.D.
6 BIG STAN

BACOLOD
1 RESERVED
2 HELL BOY 2
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 RIGHTEOUS KILL
5 GRAVEDANCERS
6 BANGKOK DANGEROUS

ILOILO
1 MIRRORS
2 RIGHTEOUS KILL
3 MAG-INGAT KA SA KULAM
4 HELL BOY 2
5 BABYLON A.D.
6 ...MOH

Big Screen Blowout

'Jazzipino' exponent releases 'Harana' CD

LOS ANGELES—"JAZZIPINO" exponent Charmaine Clamor, the first Filipina artist to place on both the world music and traditional jazz music charts in the US, has released yet another labor of love and passion, "My Harana: A Filipino Serenade."

The CD is Charmaine's follow-up to her "Flippin' Out" which earned her stellar reviews and gold consistent radio and Internet airplay in America. That album received her title as the purveyor of "jazzipino" music, her hybrid of jazz and Philippine music and lyrics. This time, the Los Angeles-based Charmaine, intended at one of the 100 most influential Filipinos in the US, brought middle name of the Philippines' romantic serenade songs in various dialects.

Backed up primarily by two musician Richard Eckardt on guitar, bandmate Jessé Enriquez and Julius Ilustrisimo on percussion, Charmaine gives soulful interpretations of such beloved songs as "O, Ilaw," "Maminahid, Sinasamba" to duet with Mon David, who sings with rich romantic fervor), "Madam Lay Lahi" in my native Ilonggonon (Hay Charmaine, why didn't you ask me to sing this with you?), "Pilapil Hilit" and "Abikod Ning Dipog Ko."

A space management of "Hamalicious," with Richard providing a simple, sticky counterpoint on Gabbing and Eckhardt to Charmaine's vocals, makes the Bossa-ditty sound refreshing. This kind should guarantee some airplay on world music radio programs.

Charmaine, who grew up in Cubao, Zambales, will launch "My Harana" in two high profile venues in LA. First, she will sing a few songs from the CD in "Jazzipino@Basic: A Celebration of Music," a benefit concert of the Filipino American Library to fund its computerization projects on Oct. 11, at the Animal Theatre in LA's Little Tokyo (www.palcc.org). After that is the actual album launch on Nov. 9 at LA permanent jazz club, Catalina Bar & Grill (www.catalinabar.solidcom).

Below are excerpts of our interview via e-mail with Charmaine about her new CD:

Which distinct song was the most challenging for you to master? Did anyone coach you?

What was somewhat challenging was singing in Hungarian for "Mahirap Ma Lahi." I had to practice how to pronounce "ö" and "ü." It is different from Tagalog, which is my native tongue.

For all the dialects except Ilonggo, I had a "coach"—a friend or family member who speaks that dialect. Basically, I listened to recordings as well.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Andrew T. Sapsaden

Richard Eckardt is a true master of the guitar. If you can please cut a thing or two about Richard, what will you say?

Richard is indeed a world-class guitarist, a fine arranger and composer. He arranged most of the songs on "My Harana." We have two original songs—the last track on the album called "Jahin." Richard has impeccable taste in music and this is one of the reasons it is pleasurable to collaborate with him. We have been collaborating for three years now. He is also very creative and plays many instruments. He is originally from Detroit but now lives in Los Angeles with his family. Richard is 100 percent Filipino and has made his country proud by releasing an album of classic Philippine music on an international classical label called Naxos Records two years ago.

Tell us about recording "Maminahid, Sinasamba" with Mon David. If both of you were still single, would you open your windows if Mon was there serenading you in your house?

"Maminahid, Sinasamba" is typically sung solo but Mon thought it would make a fine duet. He came up with a haunting arrangement.

What I only wondered upon his windows is Mon after hearing him sing? And yes, I will ask him to sing more!

You, Richard and Michael Koub came up with a spare, striking arrangement for "Pamulinawen."

We have been presenting this kind of music in performing arts processes in various art venues in the US and the response has been tremendous. One of the standard at shows "Pamulinawen." Michael and I came up with the spare arrangement and the idea of using ballroom, which Richard played with such great taste. We also used the kalipayo on this track.

Which track is your personal favorite?

Every piece on this album is special to me because the research for this project took about six months. I wanted to make sure we covered as many regions as possible. But with songs that really speak to me, I had to add some. Listen for a rendition of these songs as I can interpret them with integrity. We have many great lyrical songs but I could only record 12.

If I had to choose one, it would have to be our original lyrical song "Lahin (Tuo Mahirap Ma Lahi)." It sends the lyrics and Richard came up with the beautiful melody. I believe that that modern lyrical song symbolizes the ultimate romantic harmony.

Which of those songs will you perform in the Filipino Americana Library's gala concert, 'Jazzipino@Basic: A Celebration of Music' on Oct. 11?

I will be singing four songs. I want to make it a surprise. I will be doing materials from "Flippin' Out" and my new album, "My Harana: A Filipino Serenade" but of course there has not been announced yet. Among the performers are Mon David, Sonny Kennedy and his quintet, Bessa Gudiano, Three of a Kind and Michael Hades. I will have Richard Eckardt as my special guest during my set.

Can you sum up your experience portraying two characters in "The Vagina Monologues"? And how was it to sing your lines in Tagalog?

Being part of "The Vagina Monologues" was liberating. It felt so good to have that freedom to speak one's mind without reproach. Some words that are considered "taboo" and to celebrate my sexuality. Using the Tagalog version was even funnier and for me, more honest and direct. That was my first taste of acting and I had an amazing experience.

I was the musical director for both the San Francisco and New York productions. I provided the emotional music between the monologues. The best part was being able to raise funds for each of the Filipino (the women) and other organizations that fight domestic violence against Filipino women.

E-mail the columnist at rcmpalal_MD@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nipster Report," at http://blogs.inquirer.net/nipsterport.

CHARMAINE warm up with Mon David for a soulful duet, "Maminahid, Sinasamba."